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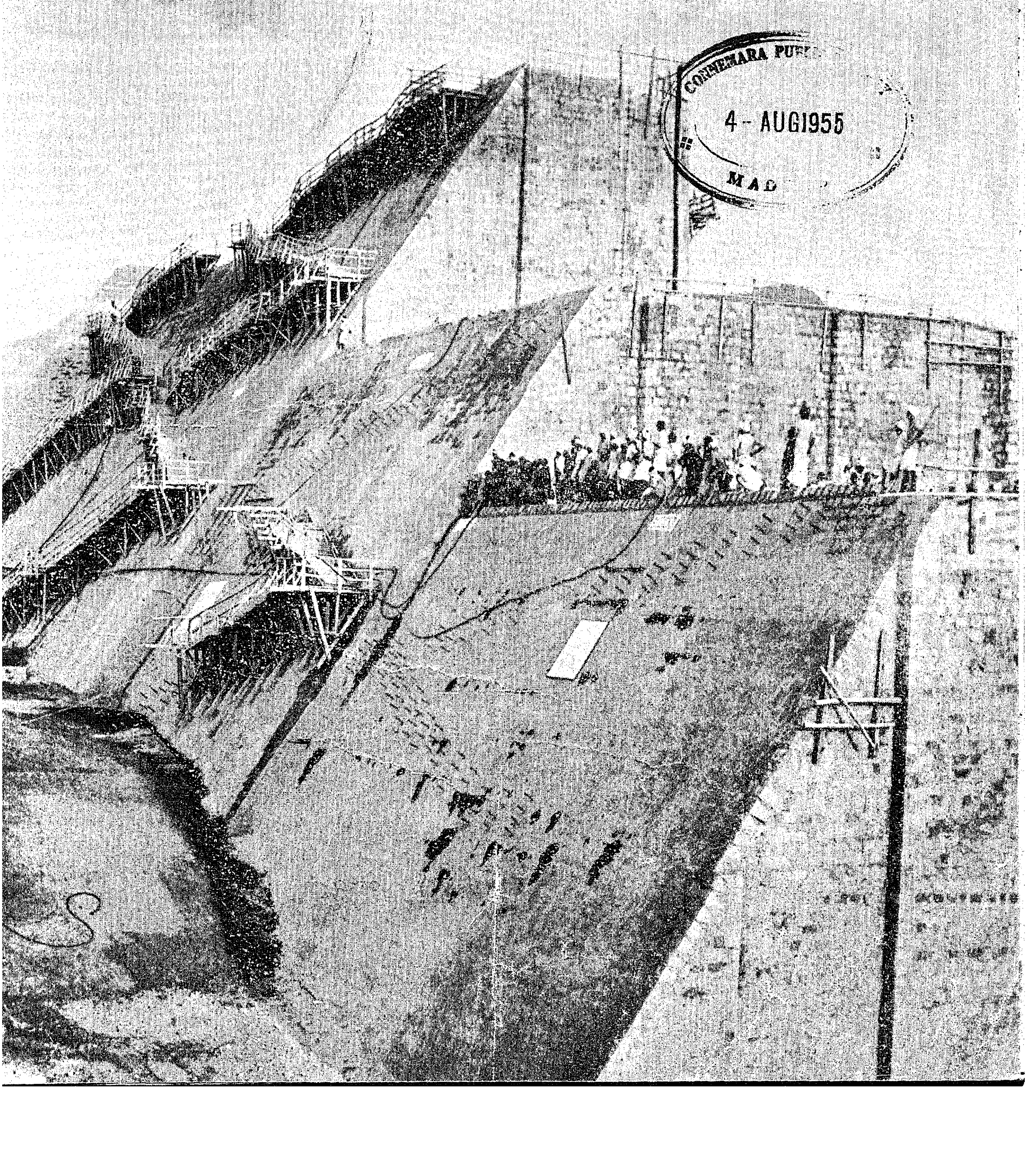

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Fort St. George

Vol. IX, No. 8 "WE SEEK TO SERVE AND NOT TO COMPETE" August 1955

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Cover Page: CONSTRUCTION FOR TOMORROW—The Work on Manimuthar Project in Tirunelveli district is progressing satisfactorily. This is one of those major projects in the State for which people made a substantial contribution. A little sacrifice by the present generation, and the fruits will be enjoyed by the future generations—none else, but our own children and grand-children.

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Eighth year of Freedom

The eighth year of freedom in Madras State witnessed a further period of intense activity in the consolidation of efforts towards progress and development of national economy. As the first Five Year Plan neared fulfilment, its achievements also became more and more visible and the large mass support it received during the year clearly indicated the people's appreciation and approval of the plans for their prosperity.

Compared to the preceding years' this was a year of greater developmental activity, encouraged by the improvement in the food situation and an all-round recovery after nearly seven years of adverse economical conditions, accentuated by a large spell of adverse seasonal conditions. Nature began to smile again on this side of the peninsula and during the last two years, the monsoons have been favourable and rainfall became normal, if not plentiful. This assuaged greatly the ravages of drought and famine in previous years; the fields began to smile again with the green crops, the dried up wells began to yield water for drinking and irrigation and the tanks began filling up. Thus eighth year of Freedom dawned with sunshine and smile and people began to look forward with better courage and faith. This enabled the acceleration of progress and with the willing co-operation and rousing enthusiasm of the people, the Government was able to push through its development plans and launch new schemes with vigour.

A series of welfare measures introduced by the Government marked their progress during the year; pension benefits to school teachers, free education to poor school children up to middle school classes, the progressive implementation of the Community Project and National Extension Service Schemes, etc., aroused the interest of a large number of people in all the welfare measures of the Government. The irrigation projects under construction registered further progress towards completion; new projects like the

On the 15th of this month we celebrate the Independence Day. "Heart-searching" is an expression we usually associate on occasions like that. But a constant demand on that expression need not belittle its significance. Heart-searching can indeed be very genuine. A mental flash-back takes us back to those hectic days when the freedom fighters were telling the people from platforms in hamlets, in villages, towns, cities, Chowpatti sands: "Let power to shape our destinies fall in our hands and then we shall. . ." Today that power is in our hands and the people's representatives are in power everywhere. But have we any reason to be apologetic? Decidedly not! In the seven years that have rolled by, we have done something. We have also laid the foundations for a great social structure worthy of our martyrs. Here in these pages you read a modest account of what we have done in our State. Now read on . . .

Sathanur (North Arcot District) and the Krishnagiri (Salem District) Reservoir Projects and the Periyar Hydro-electric Project were inaugurated, a number of bridges were opened up, connecting important communication lines, the highways in the State increased in length and their surface improved; a number of educational institutions were opened and strength in them also went up; hospitals, doctors and similar Health and Medical and aid Services also increased; agricultural and industrial production in the State registered greater stability. On the whole, it was a year of hope and optimism which permeated the whole countryside, where the preparation of the Second Five Year Plan was being carried on actively and on a solid basis.

It is perhaps this that would ultimately make the eighth year an important landmark in the economic progress of India. It will go down in history as a turning point, as the year that paved the way for the "socialistic pattern of Society."

A review of the progress made during the year and the work planned then is therefore of significant importance, for it gives a comprehensive picture of the first fruits of the early years of freedom and a better perspective of the India that is being evolved on the anvils of the eighth and subsequent years.

Education

The year under review showed all-round improvement in all spheres of education in this State, elementary, collegiate and technological.

There were 21,552 Elementary Schools with a total strength of 1,884,905 boys and 1,108,873 girls as against 21,423 schools with 1,829,117 boys and 1,081,263 girls in the previous year. The Government have appointed a Committee to examine the present system of elementary education in the State in all its aspects and to suggest reforms so as to re-orientate the system of education in the early stages.

Under the scheme for providing single-teacher schools in schoolless centres and to give relief to the educated unemployed, 2,708 new schools were opened this year and 100 additional teachers were appointed for the Higher Elementary standards to be opened in the existing Elementary schools.

There were about 938 basic schools during the year as against 905 in the previous year. The number of scholars reading in them during the year was 79,013 boys and 48,063 girls. There were 23 craft equipment stores at the beginning of the year 1954 and two more were opened during the year.

The introduction of free education up to middle school for children of parents whose income falls below Rs. 1,200 per annum is an outstanding measure introduced during the year. The secondary education followed in the State is in conformity with several recommendations made by the Secondary Education Commission. The Government have constituted a Committee with Dr. A. L. Mudaliar, Vice-Chancellor of the Madras University as Chairman, to improve and accelerate the progress and to implement other recommendations of the Secondary Education Commission. The number of Public Secondary Schools was 827 for boys and 205 for girls. The number of Indian Secondary Schools alone during the year being 802 for boys and 178 for girls, as against 782 for boys and 177 for girls in the previous year. The strength of the Indian Secondary Schools during the year was 379,002 boys and 119,159 girls as against 369,304 boys and 110,347 girls in the previous year. 127 schools imparted diversified courses of study, at the secondary stage.

There were 40 colleges for men and 16 for women for general education. Three second grade colleges were opened during the year and four second grade colleges were upgraded to first grade colleges. The strength in the various University classes during the year was 35,602 men and 5,997 women as against 33,837 men and 5,247 women in the previous year.

There were 7 training colleges for men and 3 for women, 44 non-basic training schools for men and 48 for women and 32 basic training schools for men and 15 for women. Certificate and Diploma courses for Technical teachers were conducted in 3 centres during the Summer vacation of 1954.

The number of Engineering Colleges in the State was 6 and the number of scholars in these institutions was 2,049.

The scheme of social education which was introduced in 1948 was modified this year and admission was restricted to illiterates between the ages of 8 and 18. The number of social (adult) education centres was 1,939 and the number under instruction was 49,044 men and 3,556 women.

The number of institutions for the handicapped was 15 as in previous years. The strength in these institutions was 808 boys and 363 girls.

District Central Libraries are now functioning in all districts in the State at the Headquarters towns and during the year 55 branch libraries were opened.

Free Education

Harijans were exempted from school fees and Backward Communities were eligible for half-fee concessions. The Government have now decided to exempt all poor children without any distinction of caste, creed or community, from the payment of school fees up to the middle school stage with effect from next school year. The managements of schools would be compensated for loss of income. Even though elementary education was generally free, the managements of some aided elementary schools were charging school fees. The management of these schools would be suitably compensated. These measures are expected to cost about Rs. 50 lakhs.

The Government have been considering for some time the various suggestions made from time to time to better the lot of teachers in aided elementary schools. Even now the teachers both in aided and local bodies services have the option to take insurance policies and pay the premia from the provident fund amount standing to their credit.

The Government have decided that the teachers in elementary schools should be given, in addition to the existing scheme of provident fund, pension equal to one-fourth of their pay as per the present rules applicable to pensionable service under the Government and made it operative from 1st April 1955.

Food and Agriculture

The two-pronged drive of the Government of Madras to improve the lot of the agriculturists and to increase agricultural production to meet the food deficit was continued successfully during the year under review. The system of informal rationing which was in force in Malabar and the Nilgiris districts was discontinued from July 1954, and due to the availability of foodgrains in the open market at reasonable prices, all fair price shops were gradually closed down by the end of 1954. In view of the easier food situation in the country, steps were being taken to increase the production of deficit commercial crops like cotton, sugarcane, oilseeds, etc., without detriment to the production of foodgrains.

A sum of Rs. 902·2 lakhs had been provided in the Five Year Plan for expenditure on agricultural schemes and the allotment for 1954–55 was Rs. 198 lakhs. The vagaries of monsoons which had been mainly responsible for successive crop failure in this State were offset by the execution of several irrigation works, both major and minor under the Five Year Plan benefiting nearly 4 lakhs of acres. Major Projects like Lower Bhavani and Malampuzha had already commenced supply of water while Manimuthar, Amaravathi, Sathanur, Krishnagiri, etc., were under various stages of construction. In addition to innumerable minor irrigation and tank improvement works a scheme for the construction of filter point tube-wells was launched to develop and utilise the underground water-supply. This scheme was becoming increasingly popular and with the loan assistance made available by the Government of India, 600 filter point tube-wells at an estimated expenditure of Rs. 20 lakhs were being installed in 1954–55.

Manure Supply

The Government's effort in recent years to increase rice production by providing the agriculturists with inorganic and green manures, improved seeds tractors, filter point tube-wells and pump sets had increased rice yield appreciably and the extra production last year due to intensive cultivation scheme was about 2½ lakhs of tons. A quantity of 65,692 tons of Ammonium Sulphate was distributed to ryots for application as straight fertiliser during the period April 1954 to March 1955. Pest control measures had been expanded and pesticide and fungicide were distributed to ryots in pest-affected areas at 50 per cent of the cost price. The quantity of foodgrains saved by these measures was estimated at 45,000 tons valued at Rs. 1·3 crores. A weekly forecast giving information on the outbreak and likely spread of pests and disease was issued to ryots suggesting the remedial measures which should be adopted.

There were 49 agricultural research stations and farms in this State functioning during the year. The paddy research stations at Coimbatore had collected nearly 1,500 strains of paddy. About 60 per cent of the

total area under paddy in this State were covered by improved strains and 8 lakhs of acres by improved seeds of millet.

Demonstration Plots

The scheme of the Government to organise one demonstration plot in each village to bring home to the cultivator the results achieved at the Farms and Reserach Stations was pursued during the year and there were 13,278 demonstration plots as against a total of 20,000 villages. There were also about 16,309 village associations and 97 taluk associations of agriculturists in this State. They helped in the propagation of Japanese method of cultivation, and organisation of village seed farms. In Tanjore seed farms were opened in all the 625 villages under the National Extension Service scheme.

Agricultural Credit was provided to the ryots indirectly through co-operative organisations and directly as takkavi loans. The total amount of finance provided by the co-operative for agriculture during the year 1954–55 was about Rs. 632 lakhs while the corresponding figure for the year 1953–54 was Rs. 422 lakhs. In addition Rs. 70 lakhs had been provided for manures, Rs. 4·67 lakhs for tractors, Rs. 14 lakhs for pump-sets, etc. Long term loans at the rate of Rs. 300 per acre subject to a maximum of Rs. 1,500 per person for carrying out soil conservation work were given in the Nilgiris district. So far, 6,752 acres had been contour-bunded under the above scheme. Afforestation work had been undertaken in 10,000 acres of barren forest lands in dry districts, as this would in addition to restoring fuel forests, effectively arrest the development of sheet and gulley erosion in these areas.

Development of livestock also received prompt attention during the year. The Madras State has been for sometime now free from Rinderpest. Twenty quarantine stations were opened along the important cattle routes at the borders adjoining other States to protect cattle entering this State with freeze dried Rinderpest Vaccine. During the year 1954–55 over 600,000 animals were protected this way. Nine new veterinary dispensaries and seven Touring Billets were opened during the year. Under the Male Stock Distribution Scheme, 140 breeding bulls and 30 rams were distributed during the year for stud purposes.

Eight key villages with two Artificial Insemination Centres were started during the year, bringing the total to 36 key villages and 9 Artificial Insemination Centres in the State. In addition to this, 8 Artificial Insemination Centres were sanctioned during the year under Community Project programme in different districts and also 6 Livestock Improvement Centres under National Extension Service in Tanjore district.

Toned Milk

The Government Milk Factory established in 1947 produced on an average about 120,000 lb. of reconstituted milk per month. A Committee appointed by the Government to go into the question of working of this factory and matters concerning the milk supply position in Madras City recommended the manufacture of "Toned Milk" instead of reconstituted milk by toning buffaloe's milk to the standard and quality of fresh cow's milk.

In order to improve the present stock of exotic breeds in the poultry Research Station at Madras, new Strains of White Leg horns, Rhode Island Reds, Light Sussex and Brown Leghorns were introduced during the year.

Co-operation

Madras, which has been almost the birth place of the Co-operative movement in India is maintaining its reputation for progress in this field and forging ahead with further development in co-operative organisation all round.

The rural credit societies constitute the major part of the Co-operative structure in the State. The number of rural credit societies increased from 10,151 to 10,295 and the membership from 9·28 lakhs to 9·81 lakhs in the course of one year. The paid-up share capital of members also increased from Rs. 123·38 lakhs to Rs. 130·20 lakhs. The societies cover nearly 49·37 percentage of the villages and 21·04 percentage of the rural population at present. The total loans issued to the agricultural credit societies amounted to Rs. 367·65 lakhs.

The Madras State Co-operative Bank provides funds to the Central Co-operative Banks for financing agricultural operations and marketing of crops from its own resources supplemented by funds obtained from the Reserve Bank of India and the Government. The State Co-operative Bank has on its rolls 16 Central Co-operative Banks as members. Its paid-up share capital on 31st March 1955 is Rs. 11·65 lakhs. The sixteen Central Co-operative Banks had a paid-up share capital of Rs. 97·05 lakhs at the end of March 1955. They held deposits of different kinds to the extent of Rs. 751·03 lakhs. Up to March 1955, they issued loans to the affiliated societies to the tune of Rs. 1,004·97 lakhs and the amount outstanding was Rs. 862·92 lakhs.

Long Term Credit

On the side of long term credit, the Central Land Mortgage Bank continued to povide long term finance to the agriculturists repayable in 20 years. The membership of the Central Land Mortgage Bank consists of 73 primary land mortgage banks, and 338 individuals. The 73 primary land mortgage banks affiliated to the Central Land Mortgage Bank had a membership of 42,326 and a paid-up share capital of Rs. 26·35 lakhs on 31st December 1954. During the period they issued loans to their members to the extent of Rs. 14·85 lakhs, and the loans outstanding at the end of December amounted to Rs. 340·37 lakhs.

Co-operative marketing constitutes another major activity of the movement. There are 120 Marketing Societies in the State which issue loans to members on the pledge of their produce, undertake marketing of their produce for favourable prices and distribute chemical manures and agricultural implements. The Government continue to render financial assistance to the Marketing Societies by way of subsidy to the extent of 50 per cent of the cost of godowns constructed by them subject to a maximum of Rs. 7,500. The number of godowns put up by the Marketing Societies up to 31st March 1955 was 43.

There are at present 28 land colonisation societies for civilians. These societies have taken up 14,337 acres of land of which 6,911 acres have been brought under cultivation. During the year, two land colonisation societies were registered and started at Pulian-kulam in Tirunelveli district and Koila in South Kanara district.

Co-operative Milk Supply Societies and Unions continued to function as

in the previous years, supplying milk of good quality to the consumers at reasonable prices and securing at the same time to the producers a fair return for their labour. There are at present 20 milk supply unions. The number of milk supply societies has increased from 527 to 539 and their membership from 57,077 to 57,953. The production of milk per day in the unions and societies has increased from 35,000 Madras measures a day in August 1954 to 37 000 Madras measures per day in March 1955.

Handloom Industry

The handloom industry received great encouragement, and the industry showed signs of improvement during the year. From August 1954 to March 1955, the number of primary weavers, societies increased from 671 to 776; their membership from 1·13 lakhs to 1·24 lakhs and the paid-up share capital from Rs. 62·29 lakhs to Rs. 64·30 lakhs. The number of looms brought into the co-operative fold increased from 1·03 lakhs to 1·32 lakhs out of nearly 5 lakhs looms in the State an increase of nearly 10 per cent in the course of 7 months.

Out of the Cess Fund the Government of India sanctioned a sum of Rs. 182·88 lakhs to the Madras State up to 31st March 1955 for the implementation of the several schemes for the benefit of the weavers. The measures for the improvement of the handloom industry chiefly relate to the provision of share capital to members of weavers' co-operative societies, working capital to the weavers' societies and the Madras State Handloom Weavers' Society, provision of technical and improved appliances for the industry, expansion of marketing activities by way of opening of emporia, sale depots, etc., grant of rebate to consumers with a view to encourage purchase of handloom cloth by the public. As a result of the working of these schemes, 35,452 weavers were brought as new members into the co-operative fold up to 31st March 1955 by advancing loans to them towards share capital of primary weavers' societies and Madras State Handloom Weavers' society Rs. 40·48 lakhs and Rs. 34·4 lakhs respectively were made available.

Cottage industries provide subsidy occupation to the agriculturists engaged in the industry. There are 150 cottage industrial societies with a membership of 15,216 and paid-up share capital of Rs. 4·39 lakhs. These societies embrace a variety of cottage industries, such as mat-weaving, coir making, leather goods making, basket making, toy and button manufacture, pottery, hand-pound rice, oil pressing, metal works, etc., besides garment making among women.

Housing Societies

The urban housing societies organized in municipalities and major panchayats of the State help to relieve congestion in urban areas. Housing societies have been organized in rural areas also to enable the villagers to construct houses of their own. There are 171 urban housing societies with a membership of 16,280 and paid-up share capital of Rs. 105·76 lakhs. There are 224 Fishermen's Co-operative Societies with a membership of 31,413 and paid-up share capital of Rs. 5·53 lakhs. They issued loans to their members to the extent of Rs. 5·94 lakhs during the year. Select societies are entrusted with quick transport vans by the Fisheries Department to enable the members to move the catches quickly to the markets. Government have sanctioned a loan of Rs. 18,000 to the Mahabalipuram' Fishermen's Society, Chingleput district, for the purchase of catamarans.

In the four Community Project areas, twenty-four Community Development blocks and 29 National Extension Service blocks in the State, there are 3,218 co-operatives of different types covering 2,878 villagers; 611 villages are yet to be covered by co-operatives in these areas.

Industrial Development

Though Madras State suffers comparatively due to lack of any large-scale industries, efforts are being made for the rapid industrialisation of the State and to maintain a high level of employment; Government have been giving maximum encouragement and assistance to private enterprise. The Madras Industrial Investment Corporation, Limited, sponsored by the Government granted long-term loans to industrial concerns to the tune of Rs. 1·5 crores.

During 1954–55, licences were granted for the establishment of a number of new textile mills and for the expansion of existing ones involving a total addition of about 200,000 spindles to the State's existing spindleage. Licences were also granted for three sugar factories with a total crushing capacity of 2,600 tons of cane per day, one cement factory for the manufacture of white and coloured cements, one soda ash factory at Tirunelveli and one paper mill at Papanasam. There are also proposals to establish another paper mill in the Nilgiris district and a factory for motor cycles.

Lignite

Following the discovery of a very important key product, lignite, in South Aroct district, and the successful experiments carried out in the initial stages of the pilot project at Neiveli; the Government of India have now come forward to meet the entire expenditure of the lignite investigations at Neiveli in South Arcot from this year; however the work will be carried out through the agency of Government of Madras. A project co-ordinating committee consisting of five representatives of the Government of India and three representatives of the Government of Madras was set up. In May 1954, the Government of India engaged the services of a British firm for writing up a project report on South Arcot Lignite. They have since submitted the report. An integrated scheme for the production and utilisation of raw lignite will be drawn up after further investigations to check the thickness of the lignite seam and the study of the underground water conditions are completed.

Among other items of progress made in the industrial undertakings directly run by the Government, the following are some of the more important.

The production and sale at the Kerala Soap Institute during the year were higher and better than in the previous year. The total production of soap during the year was 408 tons.

Additional new machineries were installed for the manufacture of Shark Liver Oil and 'Adamin' at the Government Oil Factory at Kozhikode. This has considerably improved the odour and colour of the final product.

The total quantity of silk produced at the Government Silk Filatures at Kollegal was 50,190 lb. of raw silk, 3,019 lb. of duppion silk and 20,330 lb. of thrown silk. During the year improved varieties of duppion silk and substandard silk out of the inferior cocoons were produced. The area under mulberry cultivation was 24,885

acres and there was an increase of 1,900 acres during the year.

Cottage Industries

During the year 1954–55, the following schemes on cottage industries were implemented in the Madras State.

Steps were taken to establish 30 model village oil pressing units in the State and conversion during the first year of 750 old type of ghanies into wardha ghanies at Government cost. The object of the scheme is to give fillip to village oil industry which is unable to withstand competition from power operated oil mills.

The fine kora mats of Pattamadai in Tirunelveli district have earned a reputation both in India and abroad. During recent years the industry received a set back due to the decline in demand for the costly mats. With a view to revive the industry, a training-*cum*-production centre has been set up at Pattamadai at a cost of Rs. 18,200 for the conversion of the mats into various fancy articles such as ladies' hand bags, purses, etc.

The Glass Training Centres at Madura and Kasaragod provided training to students in glass bangles and beads manufacture. The glass centre at Madras is training students in the manufacture of all important items of scientific glassware required for educational and research Institutions. A scheme for the expansion of the Marketing centre and for undertaking additional lines of manufacture such as Thermosflasks, neon-signs, etc., has recently been sanctioned and will be implemented during the year 1955–56. The Cottage Industries Research Institute at Madras, continued to design improved implements and tools for the Cottage Industries.

During the year 1954, the Visweswarayya Scheme of Rural Industrialization was extended to the entire Musiri taluk in the Tiruchirappalli district. The new industries started include manufacture of Cement products, manufacture of brass vessels, boilers, a coir making unit using the latest Japanese method and quality match splint making unit. Poultry farms, and apiaries have been started at a number of places and these have come up well.

The Government Coir School at Beypore in Malabar district continued to give training to students in coir handicrafts.

A loan of Rs. 21,150 was disbursed to the artisans and Cottage Industrialists during the year for the development of Cottage Industries.

Development Projects

Several of the Development Projects included in the First Five-Year Plan are completed or nearing completion and others are in progress.

The Lower Bhavani Project has practically been completed except for fitting up of spillway gates which is in progress. The canal has been excavated and banks formed over the entire length of 124 miles. Water has been allowed in the canal to irrigate about 114,600 acres from September 1954 to March 1955. The value of work done during the period from September 1954 to March 1955 is Rs. 21·25 lakhs. The total expenditure to the end of March 1955 is Rs. 10·29 crores.

The Malampuzha Project designed to irrigate about 40,000 acres. Malampuzha is also nearing completion. The major portion of the work on the construction of dam and appurtenant works was completed before the 15th August 1954. In September 1954, water was supplied from the canal for about 18,000 acres. The total expenditure up to the end of March 1955 is Rs. 370·00 lakhs.

The Mettur Canals Schemes which will irrigate 45,000 acres in Coimbatore and Salem districts constructed at a cost of Rs. 267 lakhs is in good progress. The excavation of the entire West Bank canal has been completed. Water was let out for irrigation up to 20th mile from August 1, 1954 to January 15, 1955 for short-term food crop on an area of about 770 acres in Salem district and 6,500 acres in Coimbatore district. Out of 120 miles length of distributaries in the West Bank canal earth work has been completed for a length of 100 miles. Investigation for distributaries in the East Bank canal is in progress.

The Manimuthar Project consists of a storage reservoir to supplement the supply of water to the existing ayacut of 83,000 acres under the Thambraparni system and to supplement supply to the existing ayacut under several rainfed tanks in Tirunelveli district with a total ayacut of about 20,000 acres. The total cost of the scheme is Rs. 505 lakhs. Out of the total of 54 million c.ft. of earth work to be done in the 28½ miles length of main canal, 32 million c.ft., i.e., 59 per cent of the earth work has been done up to the end of March 1955. The value of the work done up to March 1955 is about 265·49 lakhs.

The Arniar Project is expected to irrigate a new area of 2,530 acres and stabilise supplies to 2,970 acres by the reservoir channels and supplement supplies to 5,700 acres by the anicut channel all in Chingleput district. The cost of the Project is about Rs. 104 lakhs. The bund has been formed in the two flanks for a length of 750 feet in the left and 2,200 feet on the right. The anicut at Surratapalli has been completed. The total expenditure to the end of March 1955 is Rs. 25·34 lakhs.

The Walayar Reservoir Project affording irrigation facilities to an extent of 6,500 acres in Palghat taluk of Malabar district is estimated to cost about Rs. 100 lakhs. The work is in progress, and the total expenditure up to the end of March 1955 is Rs. 60·86 lakhs.

The major portion of the Mangalam Reservoir Project will be completed during this year.

The Amaravathi Reservoir Project designed to irrigate about 15,000 acres in Udamalpet and Dharapuram taluks of Coimbatore district is estimated to cost about Rs. 297 lakhs. Except for certain preliminary works, major items of work relating to the project are taken up only during the period under review. Excavation of foundation for the full length of masonry dam is in good progress.

The Vaigai Reservoir Project affording irrigation facilities for a new area of 20,000 acres and costing Rs. 360 lakhs is also in good progress.

The Sathanur Reservoir Project inaugurated in October 1954, will irrigate 20,000 acres in North Arcot district. Preliminary works such as clearance of jungle and forming road and collection of materials are in progress. The cost of the project is about Rs. 289 lakhs.

The Krishnagiri Reservoir Project will consist of two canals, to irrigate 7,500 acres including 2,240 acres of existing wet lands in Salem district. The cost of the project is about Rs. 202 lakhs. The project was inaugurated in January 1955.

Power

Following is the progress in the matter of power development in Madras State :—

An agreement was reached with the Travancore-Cochin Government regarding the royalty to be paid for utilizing the Periyar water for power generation and work on the Periyar Hydro-electric Scheme was commenced in November 1954. Under Pykara III stage Extensions Scheme two numbers 13,600 K.W. generating units were commissioned in May-June 1954. The second stage of Papanasam extension was completed in March 1954 with the commissioning of the 10,000 K.W. set.

The first stage of the Madras Plant Extensions Scheme involving one 15 M.W. set and 3 Nos. 80,000 lb. per hour boilers was completed in 1953. The second stage comprises a second 15 M.W. set and two more 80,000 lb. per hour boilers out of which the generating set with one boiler was commissioned in January 1955. The second boiler is expected to be commissioned in 1956. The third stage envisages an additional generating capacity of 30 M.W. and boiler capacity of 300,000 lb. per hour.

In view of the improved financial position and the loan assistance from the Centre the tempo of the rural electrification work will be further speeded up and the departmental targets doubled.

Government Transport and Communications

Transport

Government Transport has completed seven years of public service in the City of Madras after its nationalization. The fleet strength of the Government Transport is 407, operating on 65 routes. In addition to the City and suburban routes the Government Transport is operating on eight district routes also. As a part of the replacement programme, 50 Leyland Royal Tiger chassis were acquired during the year, out of which bodies for 25 buses were constructed at the Government Transport Workshop at Chromepet so far and put on the road. Orders have been placed for 50 more Leyland underfloor engine chassis to replace old buses.

A Refresher course on correct driving is being conducted for drivers. The scheme of efficiency bonus for drivers and conductors has been working satisfactorily and efforts are being made to improve the schemes further.

Communications

The maintenance and improvements of the roads and the planning for a well co-ordinated road system in the State are being attended to by the Highways Department. The First Five-Year Plan provides a sum of Rs. 3·5 crores for development of roads other than National Highways in the State. A major portion of the programme costing about Rs. 2·61 crores has been completed in the 4 years ending 1954–55. Under this Plan about 1,400 miles of new roads have been formed to serve the isolated villages ; 250 miles of roads have been provided with water bound macadam surfacing ; about 60 miles have been black topped and 26 miles have been provided with cement concrete pavement in order to meet the needs of the heavy traffic. A good number of bridges also have been constructed over the unbridged river crossings at a total cost of Rs. 105 lakhs.

In order to relieve the distress conditions of the people in the scarcity areas of Madurai, Ramanathapuram, Tirunelveli and Tiruchirapallii districts, 47 road works costing Rs. 20·10 lakhs were taken up with 50 per cent and from Central Road Fund. All these works are nearing completion.

The programme for the development of West Coast Road connecting Bombay to Cape Comorin, as an all weather road is under execution. The programme pertaining to this State consists of providing asphaltic surfacing to the entire reach of 321 miles and construction of 23 major bridges costing in all Rs. 282 lakhs.

Apart from the schemes under the Five-Year Plan and the West Coast Road Scheme, the progress of road development in the State has been further aided during the year by the sanction of a sum of Rs. 145 lakhs by the Government of India for taking up 21 works intended for the development of roads of inter-State and economic importance.

Pre-stressed Concrete Bridges

An important achievement of the department during the period was the completion of the 2,202 feet bridge across Palar near Chingleput on the Great Southern Trunk Road constructed at a cost of Rs. 25 lakhs. This is the first pre-stressed concrete road bridge ever constructed in India and also one of the longest of its kind in the world. Another such pre-stressed type of bridge of equal magnitude that has been taken up in this State and is in good progress now is the Coleroon Bridge costing Rs. 34·5 lakhs. Among the other major bridges that are under construction, the Ponniar bridge costing Rs. 33 lakhs, the Palar bridge at Ranipet costing Rs. 19·75 lakhs, the bridge across Tambraparni river at Authoor on Tuticorin-Tiruchendur Road costing Rs. 7·7 lakhs and the bridge across Perampuzha at Payyanur in Malabar costing Rs. 5·23 lakhs may be mentioned.

The proposal to establish a Highways Research Station in Madras at an estimated cost of Rs. 13·05 lakhs has been approved. The proposed Research Station will undertake special testing research and equipmental works required from time to time by the Government of India and by other State Governments in addition to its normal work. This will be the first Highway Reasearch Station to be ever started in any State.

At present the total length of roads in charge of Government is 8,626 miles and 17,301 miles of roads are with the District Boards. The State Government are taking over the important roads gradually from the local bodies and during the current year 338 miles of such roads have been taken over. The Second Five-Year Plan is worked out for a total cost of Rs. 18 crores which will definitely make much leeway in the development of roads.

Public Health

The WHO team of medical scientists who spent about a month in Madras during 1953 have expressed their appreciation of the progress made here in Medical education and practice. With the opening of a new Medical College at Madurai last year, the number of seats available in the three Government Medical Colleges has increased to 295. In addition to this, 42 students of this State have been given admission this year to the Kasturba Medical College at Manipal, in South Kanara.

In addition to the 16 Primary Health Centres established in previous years, 10 Health Centres have so far been started in Community Project areas and 5 more are proposed to be started in the National Extension Service Blocks.

Among the preventive measures undertaken by this State, the anti-malarial work done by the Public Health Department may be said to be its most outstanding achievement. Madras State is implementing the National Malaria Control Programme sponsored by the Government of India. The end of the first Five-Year Plan will find this State in the happy position of having brought all the malarial areas under control.

B.C.G.

The introduction of the B.C.G. vaccination on a mass scale in this State is another preventive measure of great importance. The work which began in November last year has been finished in the cities of Coimbatore, Kozhikode and Bangalore and their belt areas. It has now been taken up in Salem. All the district headquarters stations will be covered this year and afterwards each district will be taken in turn to cover the other urban and rural areas in two more stages.

Second Five-Year Plan and the State

The Government of Madras have decided that in preparing the Second Five-Year Plan a suitable machinery should be provided for ascertaining the needs and wishes of people and the extent to which they are willing to co-operate with money and voluntary labour. The plan for the State will be prepared for each district after consulting opinion in the villages and will provide for meeting, to the extent practicable, the elementary requirements of the people in all districts in the matter of primary education, drinking water-supply, rural sanitation, agricultural facilities, communications, medical assistance and village co-operatives. Large developmental works planned at the State level will be broken up into parts and the part relating to each district will be added on to the plan evolved at the district level to make up the total plan for the district.

Village Committees

The first step in the formulation of village plans is the setting up of a suitable organization of villagers called the Village Development Committee to function as the planning agency for the areas for which it is constituted and undertake the implementation of the plans, in co-operation with the villagers. The Committee will have to raise local contributions for implementing the village works programme and it should therefore command the confidence of the villagers that the money collected will be properly accounted for and spent to the best advantage.

In villages for which statutory Panchayats have been constituted the panchayats themselves should be utilized to the maximum extent possible for planning purposes and should form the nucleus of the planning agency.

The district will be divided into convenient planning areas and a Development Committee will be constituted for each 'Planning Area.'

The functions of the Committee will be to scrutinize the village plans with reference to their suitability, the availability of funds and the commitments involved by way of supplies of improved seeds, manure and so on and to prepare a consolidated plan for the area. The Committee will also embody in the Plan any special lines of development that may be possible in the area with reference to any raw materials or other facilities that may be available there.

On the recommendations of the Planning Commission, the Government propose, as a beginning to have detailed district plans prepared for the districts of Coimbatore, Ramanathapuram and Chingleput. The Government have sanctioned the appointment for a period of three months in the first instance of a special staff consisting of a Deputy Collector and a number of Deputy Tahsildars and Revenue Inspectors in the districts of Coimbatore, Ramanathapuram and Chingleput for work connected with the preparation of district plans.

Municipalities and major panchayats will take steps to prepare a comprehensive plan of their own which would in due course be fitted into the District and State Plans. For the purpose of preparing the Plan, each Municipal Council and Major Panchayat will be the Planning Committee for its area. The plan may roughly be divided into the following heads: (i) Water-supply, (ii) Drainage, (iii) Medical facilities, (iv) Education, (v) Roads, (vi) Town-planning and improvement of slums, (vii) Improvement of financial resources of the municipality or panchayat.

In the districts of Coimbatore, Ramanathapuram and Chingleput, the special staff sanctioned will start immediately with the organization of informal village development committee in consultation with the local staff of the Revenue and Agricultural departments. It is expected that the work relating to the formulation of Village plans would be completed in a period of three months. After getting the Village plans, the Collector has been instructed to finalize the work of the district plan within a period of one month.

In the other districts, the Collectors have been instructed to take on hand immediately the work relating to the constitution of Village Development Committees and the Committees for the planning areas in their districts through the ordinary Revenue staff and complete the work within a period of three months.

The district plans will be wide in scope to make a real impact on the life of all sections of village communities and will lay down specific targets to ensure sufficient production to sustain an ever-widening scale of welfare activities.

The Government have issued instructions that the staff engaged in the preparation of the Plan should bring the objectives, prominently to the notice of the villagers.

Electricity Output for March

During March 1955, 686 public utility power stations in India generated 696·1 million kWh (kilowatt hours) of electricity of which 568·3 million kWh were sold to ultimate consumers. The new addition during the month was one undertaking at Khargaon in Madhya Bharat. As compared to February, the electricity output increased by 69·9 million kWh.

The corresponding figures of output and sale for March 1954 are 585·7 million kWh and 483·5 million kWh and for March 1939 200·4 million kWh and 165·7 million kWh respectively.

Community Development—A People's Programme

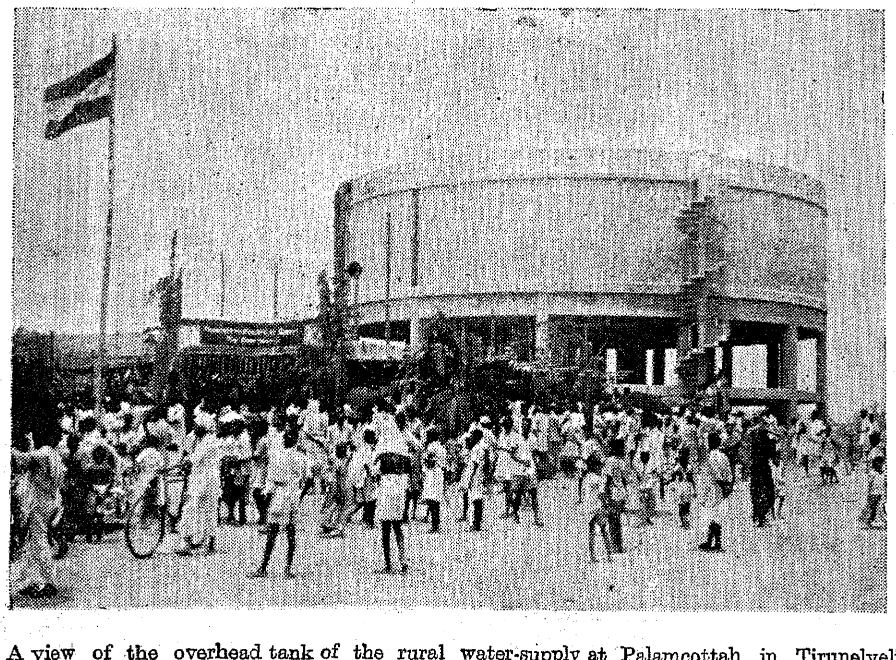
By Sri N. E. S. RAGHAVACHARI, I.C.S., Director of Community Development

A People's Programme

At the Development Commissioner's Conference held in Simla in May this year the delegates were asked what should be the correct slogan for the programme. Should it be "A Government programme with people's participation" or should it be "A people's programme with Government participation". The answer was unanimous. All the Development Commissioners stated that the latter was correct and even at present the programme is essentially a people's programme with Government participation. In this article I propose to examine the implications of this statement.

As is well known by now the Community Development programme is a multi-purpose programme aiming at an allround improvement of the conditions of living of the rural population. Obviously any amount of Government effort cannot effect this improvement unless the prople concerned exert themselves in the matter. It may be asked how the Government enters the picture. The Government has the necessary technical knowledge which it makes available to the people. For instance researches conducted at the various agricultural research stations show how the yield from the land can be increased. This knowledge is available with the officers of the agricultural department who are prepared to advise the agriculturist. But the next step is for the agriculturist to apply this knowledge and thus increase his production. This can obviously be done only by him and not by a Government officer.

Thus, unless this programme is conceived as a people's programme with the Government officials playing an advisory role, the programme cannot achieve its objective. The programme should be planned and executed by the people themselves through their representative organizations. The role of the development staff is essentially one of guiding them in planning and execution by providing the necessary technical help and by the organization of supplies and services.



A view of the overhead tank of the rural water-supply at Palamcottah in Tirunelveli district recently opened by Sri K. Kamaraj, Chief Minister.

Objectives of Village Planning

I have referred above to the planning of the programme by the villagers. One of the objectives of the village plan should be to increase production allround and to provide subsidiary occupations for the under-employed sections of the community. The success of the plan depends on the extent to which the villagers are willing to work and make sacrifices for the achievement of a better standard of living. The Planning Commission has laid down certain objectives for village planning. The Commission has pointed out that the aim should be that (1) every family has a plan of improvement for which it works, including agricultural production and subsidiary occupations, (2) every family is made eligible to become a member of at least one co-operative society, and (3) every family devotes a portion of its time and resources for the benefit of the community.

Specific items which have necessarily to be considered in any programme for increasing agricultural production and the volume of rural employment would be the use and production of improved seeds, use of manures and fertilizers, use of improved implements and better techniques, irrigation works, contour bunding and soil conservation, improvement of cattle, development of subsidiary occupations such as poultry, bee-keeping, etc., development of Khadi and other village industries, improvement of communications, etc.

People's Contribution

The programme involves the participation of the people in the execution

of works of common utility to the village. This participation involves a contribution from the people towards the cost of the work by means of cash, labour or materials. Such a contribution has a two-fold objective. In the first instance it instils into the people a feeling that the works are their own. A work towards the cost of which the people have contributed and which is carried out by the people themselves becomes their own work. They are therefore interested in its proper maintenance. The dependence of the villager on the Government for works of a petty nature is thus reduced. Secondly if the Government were to meet the entire cost of the works, the Governmental part of the expenditure would be higher and the extra amount can only be found by further taxation.

The concept of the people's contribution is essentially a voluntary form of taxation. But it has the advantage over governmental taxation in that it is voluntary and the rate at which each individual contributes is left to the individual himself or to the community. Moreover it is a tax in kind in that it can be given in the form of labour or materials. Participation by way of labour is probably the best form of contribution as labour which would otherwise be idle is utilized for a productive purpose. A pair of hands is probably the most valuable possession an individual has, and by proper utilization of these hands wealth can be produced.

Village Organizations

As the programme is essentially a people's programme, it follows that there should be an effective people's organization for every village. Wherever panchayats have been formed and are fully representative of all the interests in a village, they are utilized for developmental activities. The panchayats have been advised to form development committees to which representative non-members could be co-opted. Wherever there are no statutory panchayats, informal development panchayats have been formed in all villages covered by the programme. It is these organizations which draw up the programme for the village and which mobilizes the people's contribution towards works. The works are also executed by these organizations.

Another inportant people's organization which is sought to be developed in areas covered by the programme is the co-operative organization. In keeping with the policy underlying the concept of the co-operative commonwealth, any activity which cannot be undertaken by an individual and is suitable for being handled by more than one person for technological reasons or otherwise must be undertaken through an association of people on a mutual service basis. Such an association has to be built up on a non-profit basis and it must ensure that it does not put up one class of people against another as is perhaps the case in business transactions. The most important of such associations is the co-operative society. The co-operative society has an important part to play in providing cheap credit which is so very essential in an agricultural economy. Credit however is only one of the aspects of co-operation and the objective is to form multipurpose societies for every village or group of villages which would handle credit, arrange for the distribution of seeds and fertilizers and market the agricultural produces.

The Success so far

How far have we succeeded in this State in making this a people's programme? I might say at once that there has been a good deal of awakening among the people and there is a continuous demand for the provision of more and more amenities in villages. People are prepared to meet their part of the cost for the provision of these amenities. For instance, villagers have formed earth-roads entirely at their own cost and then requested the Government to provide the culverts and bridges on these. Similarly, people are anxious that every village should be provided with adequate drinking water-supply and are prepared to meet part of the cost of such schemes. Community recreation centres have been put up in several villages. The entire cost of the building for these centres is usually met by the people of the locality, the Government making a small grant towards the cost of Radio and equipment. For school buildings, the people have spent much more than the Government's contribution. Wherever Government land is not available for formation of roads or for the construction of buildings, wells, etc., people have come forward with generous gifts of land. It is estimated that the total value of the people's contribution on all these items amounts to over rupees forty-five lakhs up to the end of March 1955.

Rural Housing

An important item of activity is the provision of rural housing. Government have devised a simple scheme under which loans could be granted to individuals at low rates of interest repayable in easy instalments. The maximum amount of the loan is Rs. 750 per house. In several villages, people have taken advantage of this loan provision and have put up houses especially for Harijans. This is usually done as a community effort. The more well-to-do villagers provide building materials, carts, etc., either free or at concessional rates. The labour is provided by the people for whom the houses are intended. In some cases, the more well-to-do villagers even arrange to provide a free mid-day meal to those engaged in such work. With such effective co-operation among the different people of the area, houses worth Rs. 500 have been put up with only a loan of Rs. 250 per house. Such a joint effort by the entire village community is one of the best means of promoting cordial relationship between the different sections of the community and at the same time has the advantage of helping the less fortunate sections of the community in meeting one of their long-felt wants, viz., proper housing.

An important field in which people have derived distinct advantage as a result of this programme is the field of agriculture. The villagers have fully learnt the advantages of improved methods of agriculture and have adopted these. For instance, the use of green manure has considerably increased and there is an ever-expanding demand for chemical fertilizers.

In the field of village and cottage industries, several schemes have recently been sanctioned which would provide subsidiary occupation for the people in the villages. Hand-spinning which provides for the maximum possible employment with the minimum capital outlay is being developed on a large scale the target being 1,000 charkas for each block. On a modest calculation, it is found that hand-spinning can provide an additional income of Rs. 100 per family per year. It is intended essentially to provide employment in those periods when the agriculturist is not fully employed.

A new era for the villager had dawned. By a full participation in the Community Development programmes, he can march forward towards prosperity.

Periyar Hydro-Electric Scheme

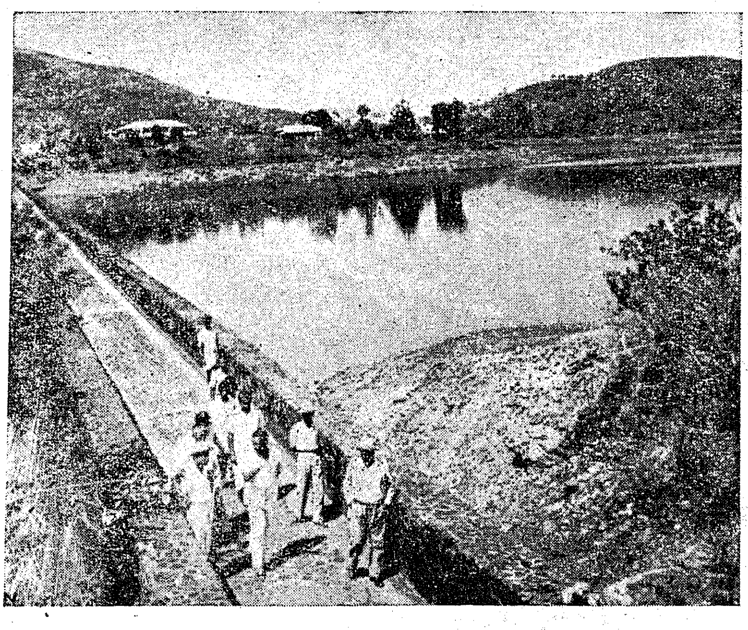
By Sri V. P. APPADURAI, B.A., M.I.E., Chief Engineer (Electricity)

The Periyar hydro-electric scheme is the fifth hydro-electric scheme to be taken up in the Madras State and when completed will be a major contribution to the Madras Grid adding about 140,000 KW of installed capacity. The work in the scheme was formally inaugurated on 11th February 1955 by the Chief Minister.

The Periyar river rises from Kallimalai, a peak on the ridge between Travancore State and Sankaranainar Koil taluk on the Madras side. In its upper reaches the river flows in a northerly direction for about 16 miles through thickly wooded forests and takes a turn to the west and flows for about 8 miles where a dam was constructed as early as 1893 by the Irrigation Department of the Madras Government. The course of the river below the dam is in a north-westerly direction till it joins the Arabian Sea near a place called Cranganur. The total length of the river is about 130 miles.

The Periyar lake is on the Travancore side of the border of Madras and Travancore-Cochin States and has a catchment area of nearly 240 square miles with an average annual rainfall of 100 inches. The height of the dam is 158 feet from the bed of the lake and the full reservoir level is 152 feet with a water spread of 10·21 square miles. The capacity of the lake at the full reservoir level is 15,662 million cubic feet.

The Madras Government, in pursuance of an agreement executed in 1886 acquired the lease rights of the water of the Periyar catchment for irrigation purposes in the Madurai and Ramanathapuram districts for a period of 999 years on payment of an agreed sum to the Travancore State. For this purpose the water of the lake is diverted into the Vaigai basin in the Madras State through a tunnel 96 square feet in cross section and 5,887 feet long capable of discharging maximum of 1,300 cusecs.



Periyar Lake.

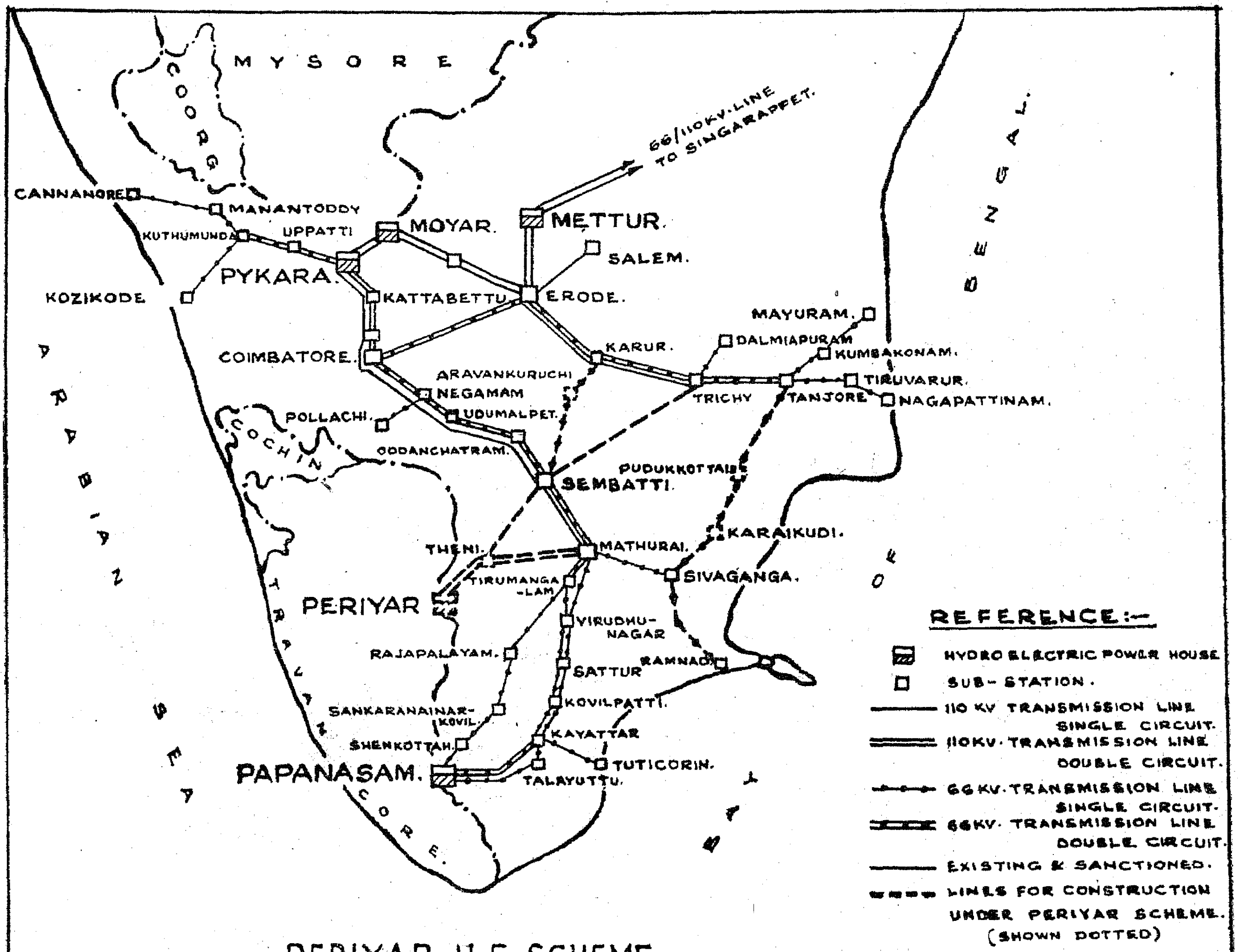
Brief description of the scheme—Civil-works and Power Stations

There is a drop of more than 1,000 feet between the exit of the tunnel and the Vaigai basin into which water is let in for irrigation purposes. The question of utilising this fall for the development of power was engaging the attention of the engineers from the very beginning of the Periyar Irrigation Project notwithstanding the fact that being dependent on South West monsoon, the full power could not be developed for a period of nearly three months in a year, i.e., from March to June.

With the proper regulation of the Periyar Waters, however, it will be rendered possible to develop power during the non-irrigation period also, the water after generating power being stored in a new reservoir that has been proposed to be built at the lower reaches across the Vaigai for irrigation purposes. A certain quantity of water could therefore, be discharged even during non-irrigation period also and stored in the Vaigai Reservoir to be used eventually for irrigation purposes.

The present scheme provides for utilising a continuous discharge of 1,000 cusecs during irrigation seasons, i.e., from June to March and 300 cusecs from March to May during the period of irrigation closure. The cost of Vaigai reservoir is being suitably apportioned between Public Works Department and Electricity Department as the Public Works Department have been considering its need separately for making use of the Vaigai river flows for increased irrigation in Madurai and Ramanathapuram districts.

The capacity of the existing irrigation tunnel is only 1,300 cusecs and this will be increased to 1,600 cusecs by increasing the area of cross-section of the tunnel from 96 square feet to 154 square feet and lining it with concrete. The cost of the improvement to the tunnel is also being shared by the



PERIYAR H.E. SCHEME

LAY OUT OF TRANSMISSION LINES.

Electricity and Public Works Departments.

Water from the above tunnel will discharge into a tunnel pond to be formed by a forebay dam which will be 93 feet high and have a capacity of 3 million cubic feet. Necessary surplussing arrangements and head works for irrigation outlet and pressure-tunnel for power-draft will be provided at the forebay dam.

Water from the forebay reservoir will take off through a power tunnel 4,188 feet long and 154 square feet in cross section. This tunnel will be capable of discharging a maximum of 1,600 cusecs. The power tunnel will terminate into a surge tank of differential type which will be 180 feet high and 40 feet in diameter, sunk entirely in rock excavation and concrete-lined.

Two low pressure pipe lines 10 feet in diameter and 194 feet long will take off from the surge tank and each low pressure pipe line will then branch off into two penstocks of 6 feet 6 inches diameter. Of these four high pressure pipes, one will be blank flanged for use at a later date and other three pipes will be connected to individual turbines at the Power Station. Each pipe will be 3,100 feet long and in three sections of diameter 78 inches, 72 inches and 66 inches respectively and is capable of discharging a maximum of 400 cusecs. The penstock will roughly follow the line of shoulder which runs from the surge shaft to the power house.

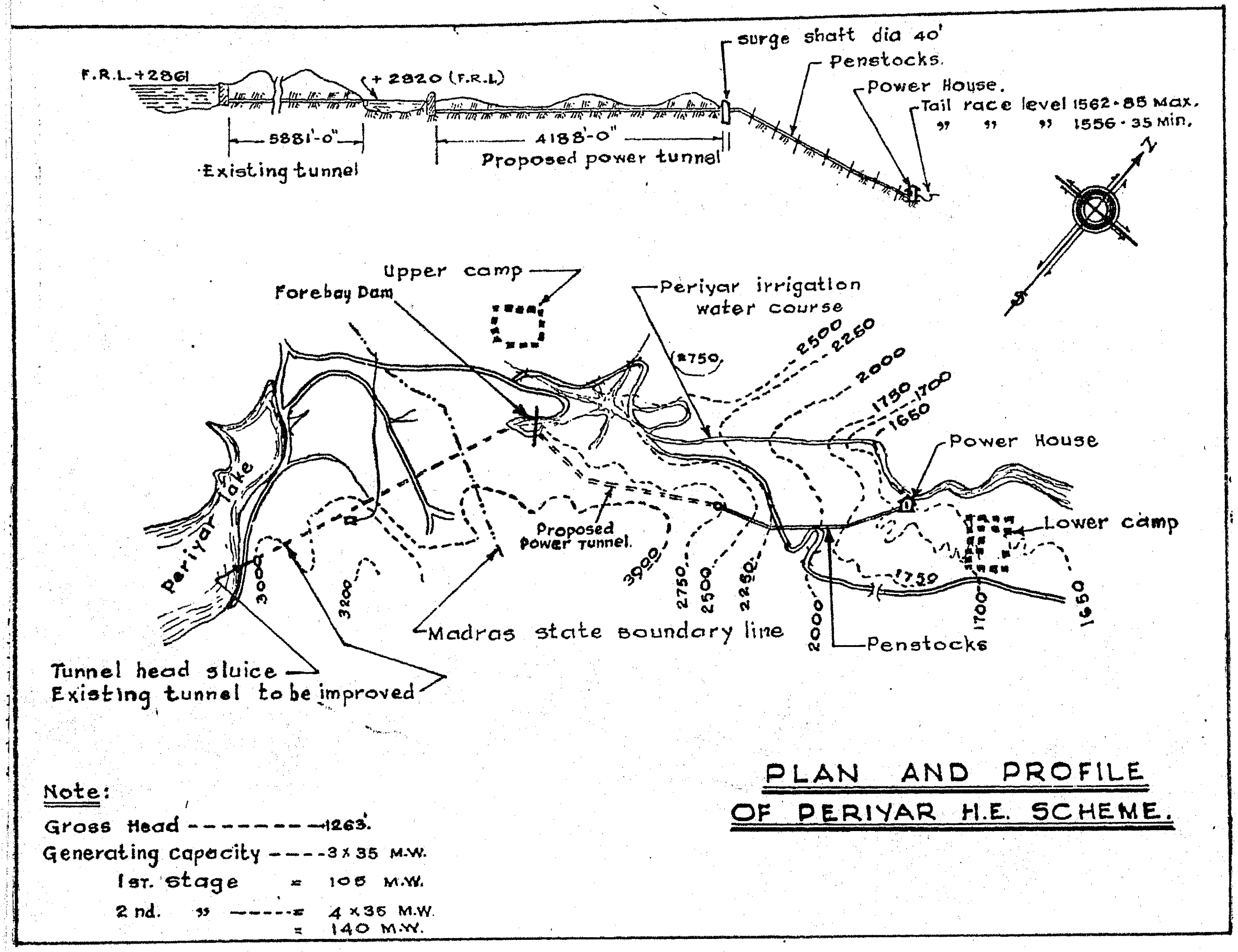
The Power House will be located in the ghat section of the main road from Cumbum to Thekkadi and will be about 35 miles from Theni in Madurai District. At the location now proposed for the power station a gross head of about 1,260 feet from the surge tank is available.

There will be initially 3 numbers 50,000 HP turbines each directly coupled to 35,000 KW 0·85 P.F. 3 phase 50 cycles 11 KV generator. A fourth set will be installed at a later date.

Three numbers step up transformers 11KV/110KV/42,000 KVA capacity will be installed now and the fourth one later. The transformer yard will be located by the side of the Power House. The main structures will be of the double deck type for carrying duplicate 110 KV busbars with necessary disconnecting switches.

Transmission lines and sub-stations

The power generated at Periyar Power House will be fed into the



PLAN AND PROFILE OF PERIYAR H.E. SCHEME.

existing power grid through 110 KV transmission lines as under :—

1. Periyar-Theni-Madurai 110 KV double circuit line—80 miles.
2. Theni-Sembatti-Tiruchirappalli single circuit 110 KV line—108 miles.
3. Sembatti-Karur single circuit 66 KV line—53 miles.

In addition the following lines will be constructed within a period of ten years from the time Periyar Power House commences operation :

1. Tanjore-Sivaganga 66 KV single circuit line (via) Karaikudi, Pudukottai, Gandarvakottai—80 miles.
2. Sivaganga-Ramanathapuram 66 KV single circuit line—50 miles.

Apart from the above trunk lines, the scheme provides for nearly 150 miles of 33 KV lines for taking power to suitable load centres. There will be about 80 miles of double circuit telephone line and about 350 miles of single circuit telephone lines to facilitate communication between the other stations. Power line carrier current communication will also be provided between generating station and important sub-stations.

The existing sub-stations at Madurai, Tiruchirappalli, Karur, Sembatti and Sivaganga will be provided with adequate additional equipments. A new 110 KV sub-station will be constructed at Theni and new 66 KV sub-stations at Oddanchattram, Aravakurichi, Pudukottai, Gandarvakottai, Karaikudi and Ramanathapuram. There will also be a few new 33/11 KV sub-stations for distribution purposes.

Estimated cost

The estimated cost of the scheme as submitted to the Planning Commission is Rs. 10·47 crores.

Progress of works

The scheme was inaugurated by the Chief Minister on 11th February 1955 and work was started immediately in right earnest. A small camp has been built for the labour as well as for the supervisory staff and power supply was effected to the project site. A number of quarters are under construction.

Roads to Surge shaft, penstock head and power house are in vairous stages of construction. Work on improvement to the irrigation tunnel was carried out in the irrigation closure period from 10th March to 10th June 1955 and a beginning has been made in the drilling of the power tunnel. Excavation for the forebay dam is in progress. Penstock garding and levelling of power house site and transformer yard are in good progress.

Orders have been placed for the outdoor transformers, transmission lines and sub-station equipments. Tenders have been invited for supply of the generating plant and orders are likely to be placed in a month's time.

It is expected that the power house can be put into commissioning by the middle of 1958–59.

The Background of Agricultural Extension in Madras

By SRI M. S. SIVARAMAN, I.C.S., Director of Agriculture

The goal of agricultural extension is the maximum economic exploitation of our agricultural resources in land and labour; but actually we find that these are not put to their maximum use. As a result the level of production is low and agricultural labour is out of employ during the off-season. Another disquieting feature is the gradual decline in the yield of crops, while the cropped area has been more or less stationary and the population is amounting up. For instance in the Madras State while the population has gone up from 27·36 millions in 1931 to 35·75 millions in 1951 the ten-year average of cereal production has gone down from 5·94 million tons in 1931 to 4·99 millions in 1951 and the cropped area has been throughout about 18 million acres.

Arrest the Decline.

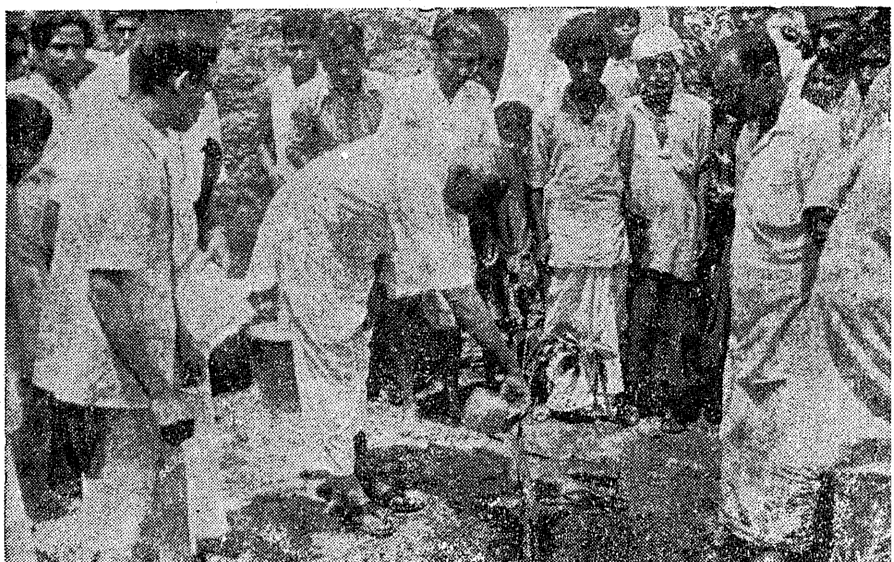
The immediate problem of the gramasevak and extension worker is therefore to arrest the decline and improve the yield of crops. Crop production in India depends upon the level of application of Nitrogenous manure to the field as the nitrogen in the soil gets depleted under tropical conditions. The total requirements of the major crops in the State at the existing level of production is 2·78 lakhs of tons of nitrogen of which the available nitrogen in the shape of farm yard manure, oil cakes, green manure, green leaf compost, ammonium sulphate, etc., is 0·93 lakhs of tons, i.e., about a third of our requirements. The balance is met by plant residues in the field and various recuperative processes that take place in the soil and outside.

More Manure

If production is to go up for the present, the supply of nitrogenous manures has to be increased. The only practical way in which this can be done is to produce extra green leaf and green manure so that the required quantity can be applied as such to the wet field and to the dry fields as composted manure. If this can be done without affecting the normal agricultural operations then we should have won the first round in the battle of production. In very recent years systematic steps have been taken to improve the production of organic manures in the Agricultural Research Stations in the State and it can now be said that all the Research Stations are in a position to produce their requirements of organic manure for wet and dry fields as green manure or compost as the case may be without in any way affecting the normal cultivation of crops. This has been achieved by systematic planting of manure yielding shrubs.

The foremost duty of the Gramasevak and Extension worker is therefore to bring home to the cultivators that what has been done in the Agricultural Research Stations can be repeated in the cultivators' field and make them adopt similar measures without further delay. In the case of wet fields where paddy is grown, the solution to the problem of green manure is simple. By growing Sesbania Speciosa as a borde crop 2 to 3 inches apart in July it i possible to produce up to 6,000 lb. o green manure sufficient for the nex crop of paddy in October. By leavin some of the plants for production o seeds it is possible to produce 60 lb. o seeds before December. By sowin 60 lb. of Sesbania seeds in the padd field before the harvest of paddy i January it is possible to produce ove 60,000 lb. of green manure in fiv months. A pure crop of Sesbani gives about 10,000 lb. in two month 20,000 lb. in three months and up t 60,000 lb. in five months.

The advantage of growing Sesbani is it can be grown in the wet fiel along with paddy. It has not affecte paddy production in any of the Agri cultural Research Stations. Eac plant can produce 4 oz. or over 9,00 seeds and therefore every cultivato can with a handful of seeds produc his future requirements of manure an seeds.



Sri K. Kamaraj, Chief Minister, planting a sapling at Tenkasi in connection with the Vanamahotsava.

Sesbania

Sesbania is particularly useful in places where the field bunds are narrow: in areas where the bunds are big the growing of perennial shrubs like Glyricidia Maculata, Indigofera Teysmanii, Ipomea Cornea, etc., should be encouraged on field and channel bunds so that the cultivator can get his green manure on the spot. A visit to any of the Agricultural Research Stations will show that in recent years all available space has been utilised for growing shrubs for producing manure. While Glyricidia and Teysmanii have been suggested because of the rapid scope for development, every effort should be made to encourage local practices like growing Vadanarayana, Povarasu, Mala poovarasu, etc., and it should be our endeavour to see that every acre has at least 200 perennial manure yielding shrubs so that at least 4,000 lb. of green manure per acre will be available to the cultivator on the spot as and when he needs it.

The progress of planting perennial shrubs will be rapid in fields which are protected against cattle. The same progress can however be achieved in all areas by planting stumps 6 to 8 feet long just at the commencement of the cropping season. If these stumps are not readily available they can be produced by planting small stumps in protected nursery beds and allowing them to grow for a year to the extent required. Where there is mutual co-operation among the cultivators it may be even possible to enclose large blocks from 10 to 50 acres belonging to a few cultivators by growing a permanent fence of Prosopis with the necessary openings for movement of bullock carts. While the solution to the problem is known, the actual method of implementing it has to be left to the initiative, enterprise and imagination of the Gramasevak and Extension Worker and their ability to plan ahead to produce the planting materials and convince the cultivator that with a little systematic effort he will be able to produce the required manure and reduce the cost of cultivation and at the same time improve the yield.

Experience in Tanjore has shown that the increase in yield of paddy by green manure alone ranges from 15 to 100 per cent in one year depending on the level of attention to cultivation. Green manure has been observed to have cumulative effect until the yield reaches about 3,000 lb., i.e., there is a steady increase from year to year as a result of green manuring till an average of about 3,000 lb. is reached and further increase in yield isposs ible thereafter by the systematic adoption of proper agronomic practices when every individual factor that affects production like preparatory cultivation, manuring, selection of seeds, spacing, irrigation, plant protection, etc., will have to be attended to at the proper time and in the proper manner.

Improved Strains

The next step is to use improved strains of crops which have greater genetic potentialities or qualities of resistance to pests and diseases. Though improved strains have been evolved in respect of most crops, the benefits from these have not reached all cultivators. But with systematic work it should not be difficult for any Gramasevak or Extension Worker to extend the improved seeds to every acre and every crop in his jurisdiction in the course of even two seasons, the first season being used to produce the nucleus of seeds for development and the second season to produce the entire requirements of the village. As even now, the nucleus material is available in most districts it may be possible to produce the requirements of all areas even in one season. For instance if a village has 1,000 acres of paddy, the seed requirements will be 40,000 lb.

Assuming that a Gramasevak or an Extension Worker starts only with 40 lb. of seeds, which will be sufficient for one acre, at the end of the first season it is not difficult to develop this to 2,000 lb. Assuming that 1,000 lb. of this is distributed to responsible cultivators, at the end of the second season we can produce 50,000 lb. of seeds, more than the requirements of the entire village. The skill of the Gramasevak and Extension Worker lies in planning ahead, entrusting the work of development to responsible ryots and arranging with the seed farm growers to have the seeds exchanged with the seeds raised by the other cultivators. It should be a reflection on the work of the Gramasevak and Extension Worker if every acre is not covered with improved seeds in the course of two seasons and inasmuch as the nucleus material is available, this work can be done in one season.

By producing improved seeds in every village, the cultivators who have not hitherto used such seeds will be in a position to appreciate the performance of the improved strains in their local environment. By limiting the seed supply, the Agricultural Department is able to pay greater attention to the purity of the seeds. Large scale procurement and transport of seed is avoided and the cultivators depend on the ryots in their own village for seed supply. Village seed farms help to foster self-help and extend supply of improved seeds cheaply and quickly all over the State and every village should run its own seed farms for all crops.

Produce Fuel

The problem of fuel is acute in most villages in the State. Because of short supply of firewood, cattle dung is used as fuel in many places. To produce enough fuel should be one of the chief activities of the Gramasevak and Extension Worker. In Prosopis Juliflora we have a valuable rapid growing tree which can supply the entire requirements of fuel and wood for making implements necessary for the average cultivator. One great advantage of Prosopis is, it is not eaten by goats or cattle, it is highly drought resistant and it does not shed thorns like the Babul or Odai. Though some varieties of Juliflora have a spreading habit in the beginning, in two years Prosopsis grows into a fine tree which will not interfere with the passage of men and cattle. It should be possible to raise Prosopis as a plantation over any waste land with the help of the collective labour of villagers.

All that is required will be a programme as follows :—

Some of the leading cultivators should be induced to spare a few ploughs and animals for about two hours after their main agricultural operations are over. With these it should be possible to form furrows every 10 feet apart on waste lands and sow prosopis seeds every foot apart in the furrow. If this operation is done from July to August, it should be possible to establish Prosopis in very large areas and this should not take more than half an hour per acre. If the seeds have not germinated after the rains, resowing may be done. Once the plant grows to a height of 4 inches with the help of the rains, there is no need to pay any attention to these plants. Prosopis can be grown as a hedge plant or inside the existing hedges to provide the thorns for repairing hedges. As a cover over barren and slopy lands Prosopis will

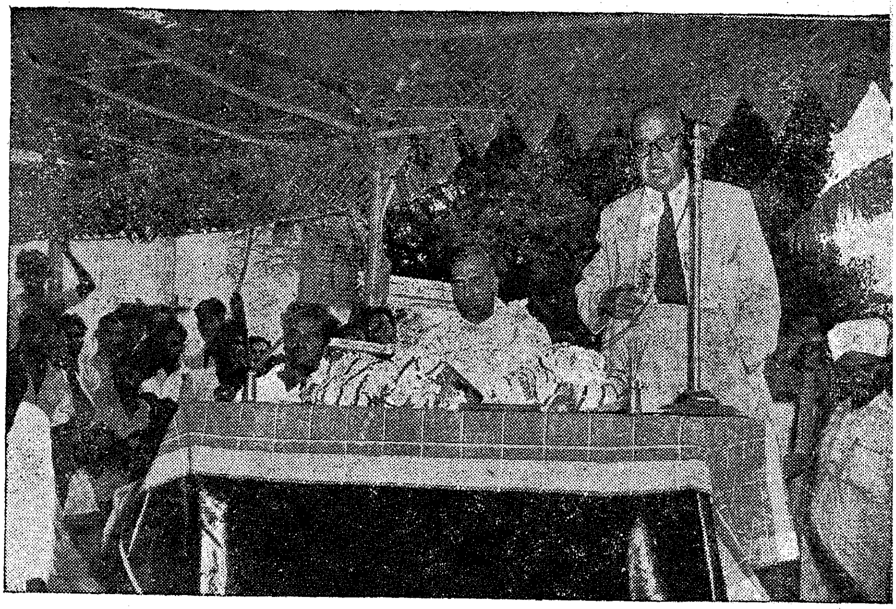
help to conserve soil moisture and help to augment the sub-soil water. The spread of Prosopis has a decisive part to play in the development of our agriculture.

Tap Sub-soil Water

With improved supply of underground water we should be in a position to tap sub-soil water for greater exploitation of land surface. Even with our existing state of underground supplies it should be possible to exploit it to its maximum in areas where success has been proved already as in most delta areas. In places where we meet with sandy aquefer, it should be possible to install filter point tube wells. By installing a filter point or tube well it is possible to grow about ten acres of P. 216F cotton in Tanjore delta after raising two crops of paddy and thus keep agricultural labour fully employed throughout the year. Similar possibilities of raising cotton, groundnut or millets or other crops with the help of the filter points exist in many places outside Malabar, South Kanara and Nilgiris Districts. If the Gramasevak or Extension Worker is enterprising and active, he should be able to bring about an all-the-year-round cultivation of some crop or other instead of seasonal Agriculture. The Agricultural Department has devised a plunger pump which helps to pump water with the help of two bullocks. It should be possible to manage two or three acres with a plunger pump and a pair of bullocks. The method of installation of the filter point or tube well is very simple and the potentialities are great.

Duties of Extension Worker

Every Gramasevak or Extension Worker should make it a point to take all possible measures to solve in less than two seasons the fundamental drawbacks of our agriculture, viz., deficiency of organic manures and inadequate spread of improved seeds. Every area has to be tackled whether it is wet or dry. If it is a wet area he should programme for border planting of Sesbania which will require 4 oz. of seeds per acre and growing of pure crop of Sesbania on about a third of wet area to produce manure for the entire area. For this purpose he should be in a position to get 60 lb. of seeds per acre sufficient for one-third of the wet area. Shrub planting should be done at the rate of 200 plants per acre and if the area is subject to cattle trespass Glyricidia, Teysmanii, Vadanarayana, Poovarasu and Mala Poovarasu, etc., can be raised in an enclosed nursery so that bigger stumps are available for planting. Ipomea Cornea is generally not eaten by cattle and it can be developed by cuttings on a mass scale. Every endeavour should be made to produce enough green leaves so that the required manure for dry fields can be produced and composted. Simultaneously Prosopis planting should be taken up to enclose big blocks leaving gaps necessary for movement of traffic in the off-season. Every filed should produce its own requirements of green manure and improved seeds and it can be done in one season itself if the Gramasevak or Extension Worker is energetic and in any case before two seasons are over.



Sri P. T. Rajan, M.L.A., inaugurated the Chinnamanur Rural Co-operative Bank, Ltd., in Madurai District on 23rd June 1955. Sri A. Palaniappa Mudaliar, Registrar of Co-operative Societies, presided.

Rural Price Index

The index numbers of rural prices for the month of March 1955 (with the year ending 30th June 1936, as base or 100) for the several centres were as follows :—

Serial number and Rural Centers.	*District.*	*Index number (Base: July 1935 to June 1936 : 100).*
1 Puliyur	South Arcot	353
2 Agaram	Do.	342
3 Thulayanatham	Thiruchirapalli	444
4 Eriodu	Madurai	364
5 Gokilapuram	Do.	381
6 Kinathukadavu	Coimbatore	389
7 Koduvalli	Malabar	472
8 Guduvanchsri	Chingleput	378
9 Kunnathur	Do.	391

4 AUG 1955

The Vaigai Reservoir Project

The work on the masonry dam of he Vaigai Reservoir in Periakulam aluk of Madurai district was naugurated by Sri K. Kamaraj, Chief Minister, in the last week of June 1955. The bridge below the Vaigai dam was also opened on the same day by Sri Shanmugha Rajeswara Sethupathi, Minister for Works.

Sri K. M. Frederick, Chief Engineer General), welcoming the Chief Minister nd the Minister for Works, gave some of the salient features of the scheme.

Chief Engineer on the Scheme

The Vaigai river including the Periyar delta irrigates at present a otal extent of about 2·94 lakhs of cres in the Madurai and Ramanatha-puram districts of which 1·80 acres has been made possible by the diversion of Periyar waters from the Periyar ake which was formed about 60 years ago, into the Vaigai river. The utilisa-tion of the available water for irrigation has now reached the limit possible but with all this we have not yet ouched the fringe of the problem of development of irrigation necessary for making the area self-sufficient. The chronic shortage of food in the area has been accentuated in the past half a dozen years by the successive failure of the monsoon. So to give relief to the area we have to look to apping of other resources. It is with this view that the Vaigai Reservoir now under construction has been taken up, combined with Hydro-Electric Scheme of the Periyar Lake higher up. The purpose of this reservoir is to store the surplus waters of the Periyar and the normal tail race discharges of the turbines during non-irrigation periods and release them for developing new irrigation to an extent of about 20,000 acres apart from stabilising he supply to existing irrigation.

The works connected with the Vaigai eservoir were started in April 1954 nd those with the Hydro-Electric cheme, recently.

One of the main items of the compo-ent works for the Vaigai Reservoir Project is the bridge work which has been completed now.

Salient Features

1	*Catchment area of the river at the dam site.*	870 *sq. miles.*
2	*Waterspread area of the reservoir at the F.R.L.*	9 *sq. miles.*
3	*Capacity of the reservoir at the F.R.L. of* +916·00.	6,878 *m.c. ft.*
4	*F.R.L. of the reservoir.*	+916·00.
5	*T.B.L. of the reservoir.*	+926·00.
6	*Number and size of river sluices.*	7 *Nos. of* 5 *feet by* 9 *feet each.*
7	*Sill level of the river sluices.*	+840·00.
8	*Crest level of spillway masonry.*	+901·00.
9	*Number and size of crest gates.*	7 *Nos. of* 40 *feet by* 15·42 *feet each.*
10	(*a*) *Total length of masonry dam.*	1,035 *feet.*
	(*b*) *Length of spillway.*	334 *feet.*
11	*Total length of earth dam.*	10,640 *feet.*
12	*Total length of dam.*	11,675 *feet.*

The bridge forms a permanent link between the two villages in Periya-kulam area in the left side and Andi-patti area on the right side of the river. Though the bridge is necessary im-mediately for the transport of men, machinery and materials from one flank to the other, required in connec-tion with the construction works of the reservoir, its use is lasting and permanent, as it secures a permanent link between the villages on either side of the river, so long kept apart. Rivers have been barriers in the development of inter-regional com-munications and this bridge serves to remove the barrier at least in this part of the Madurai district.

Further important works in connec-tion with the Project relate to the construction of the dam proper. The foundations are exposed and it is hoped that the structure will rise quickly and safely to satisfy the cherished ambitions of the people of the locality.

Schemes for the future

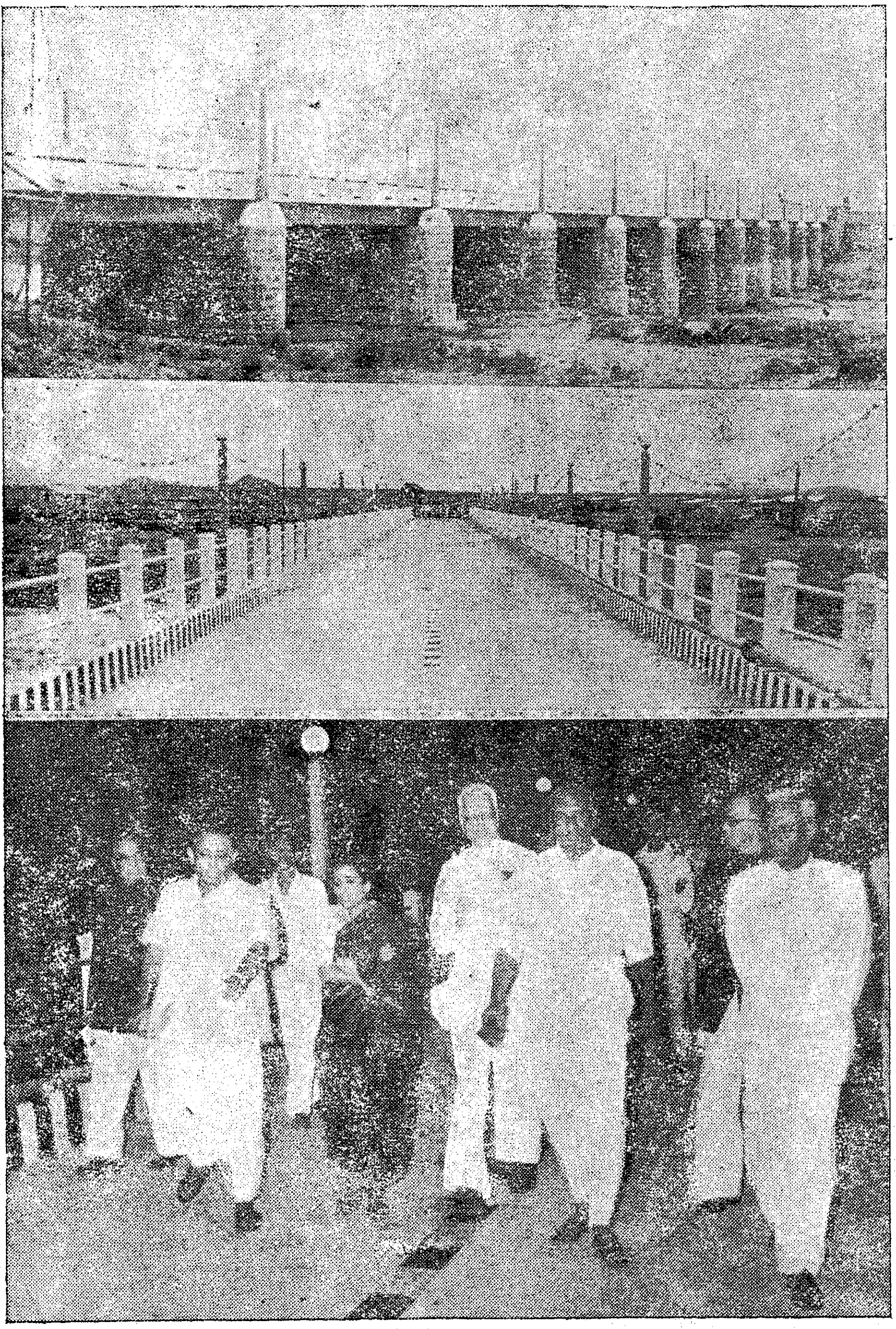
With this Project, we would be almost exhausting schemes on rivers flowing east into the Bay of Bengal and what are left to be explored and gone into in future are schemes to supplement the supply to these rivers, from rivers flowing into the Arabian Sea towards west, like Aladi, Pambiar, etc. Though these schemes require the consent of the Travancore-Cochin State, these are being examined with a view to be included in the Second Five-Year Plan. It is hoped that our sister State will co-operate with us to the best advantage and prosperity of both the States in making use of the waters which would otherwise go waste.

The details of the Scheme

At the close of the last century, a dam was built across the Periyar river which is flowing towards the Arabian Sea and the waters of that river diverted through a tunnel in the dividing range of hills into the Suruliyar which is a major tributary of Vaigai. The waters so diverted are picked up at Perani, where a regulator has been constructed across the Vaigai and used for irrigating 1,80,000 acres of first and second crops in the Periyar delta.

Storing the Surplus Waste

From the working of this Periyar Project for over five decades, it had been found that a large surplus of Periyar runs to waste into the Arabian Sea. The surplus varied from 237 m.c. ft. to 37253 m.c. ft. Several possibilities have been considered to use this surplus. It was considered very desirable to utilise the drop of water from the Periyar lake for generation of power. Surpluses occur only during the south-west monsoon period and the most feasible arrangement to impound them is to have a subsidiary reservoir on the Vaigai river. By draining the supplies in the Periyar lake through the tunnel throughout the year, mostly to work the Periyar Hydel Scheme the surplusing of the lake on the western side will be avoide to the maximum extent. The preser reservoir will not only store suc surpluses that go to waste but als the tail race water from the Periya Hydel during the summer montl when there is no irrigation. It wi also store such portion of the Vaig floods as will be wasted into the sea.



The bridge below the Vaigai Dam was opened by Sri R. Shunmuga Rajeswara Sethupathi, Minister for Works, on 25th June 1955. The Chief Minister who on the same day inaugurated the work on the masonry dam, along with the members of the party are seen walking over the bridge. (*Top*) Two views of the bridge.

The waters stored in the reservo will be utilised for new irrigatio of 20,000 acres consisting of (*a*) 3,00 acres of 'hard cases' intersperse in the ayacut of the existing Periya delta, (*b*) 7,000 acres in Sivagang taluk and (*c*) 10,000 acres in Thiru mangalam taluk. The existing char nels in the Periyar System lengthene and improved to the extent require will irrigate the hard cases and th new area in Sivaganga taluk. A ne canal, 22 miles long, will be excava ed on the right side of the Vaigai rive above the Peranai Regulator to carr the water needed for the propose ayacut in Thirumangalam taluk.

No part of the natural flows in th Vaigai river will be impounded in th reservoir. They will merely be passe down the river sluices whose capacit will be large enough to pass all th Vaigai flows which will normally suffic to meet the demands of the severa channels taking off from the Vaiga If, however, any floods exceedin such capacity occur and consequentl have to be held back in the reservoi they will be passed down immediatel after the peak floods.

There are at times floods in th Vaigai resulting from rainfall in it own catchment and a good portio of these floods at present get wastec It is proposed to impound in the ne reservoir, such portion of those flood as would get wasted, and issue ther to stabilise existing irrigation under th Vaigai. No part of the Vaigai flood impounded in the reservoir will b issued for extension of irrigatio elsewhere.

The dam

The dam will be 11,675 feet (or miles and 1½ furlongs) long and consis of two parts (1) a masonry overflo dam at the river crossing with no overflow sections on both sides an (ii) earthdams in continuation of th non-overflow masonry sections at th two ends. The length of masonr dam will be 1,035 feet of which 334 fe will be the spillway dam and no overflow sections of 466 feet on th left side and 235 feet on the rig side. The length of earthdam

e left flank will be 1,780 feet and at at the right flank 8,860 feet.

The masonry dam will have a aximum height of 106 feet above ie bed level of the river. The ogee pillway of 334 feet at the river crossing ill have its crest at +901·00 with ven crest gates of size 40 feet by 5·42 feet each installed over it. here will be seven river sluices of 5 et by 9 feet each with sill at +840·00 allow the irrigation requirements for he existing Periyar and Vaigai aya-uts. Four of the river sluices will robably be converted into penstock ipes so that seasonal power can be enerated.

Submersion

The waterspread area of the reservoir t F.R.L. will be 9 square miles of which only 90 acres are wet lands. lthough the submersion area is large, he area is very sparcely populated nd only 12 hamlets get affected. ompared with the benefits of the roject, the population displaced by ubmersion is small. The number ffected is also small as compared ith other projects. However, for he entire affected population, measures o properly rehabilitate them as in he case of other projects are being ndertaken by the Revenue Depart-nent.

The Vaigai Bridge

The Vaigai river which carries the Periyar waters and its own catchment lischarge rises in the Western Ghats n its eastern slope at an altitude of bout 5,000 feet above M.S.L. and fter running through the thick forests f the Gandamanaickanur Zamindari he river enters the plain country ear Gandamanaickanur village. After raversing for a distance of about 0 miles the river is joined by the ributary called Suruliyar. The Suruli-ar brings the Periyar water drawn through the tunnel from the lake. The present dam is situated about 8 miles down-stream of the confluence of the two rivers. The combined catchment area at this site is 870 square miles and the maximum flood discharge is computed to be 62,860 cusecs.

As at least 4 feet depth of water flows in the river during 9 months of the year, a bridge at the site to facilitate transport of men, machinery and materials from one flank to the other was found a necessity. This bridge is located about 3 furlongs below the dam alignment. It has 12 vents of 30 feet each. The water way is capable of discharging a maximum flood of 62,860 cusecs. The decking is R.C. 7 inches thick with 3 inches wearing coat supported on rolled steel beams of 24 inches by 7½ inches by 100 lb. The clear roadway is 18 feet. The bridge has costed Rs. 1,60,000.

The bridge not only serves the needs of the project works but also caters to a great and long felt need of the people on both the sides of river for easy communication. This bridge would also facilitate opening of bus traffic from Periyakulam to Andipatti direct instead of the present circuitous route through Theni.

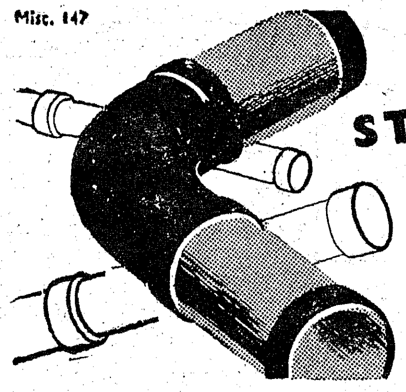
Smiling Faces

A news report on the event says: "Villagers with smiling faces from the nearby hamlets had thronged to witness the fulfilment of their long-cherished desire to get the water of the Periyar diverted into their area for irrigation." No wonder! And slowly, but surely there will be smiles on the faces of all villagers in our country as the great schemes get executed one by one bringing prosperity and happiness in their wake.

OUR CENTRAL INSET

Seven years have rolled by since we attained freedom. What is our record in these years? We might not have worked wonders; but we have done something. Here you see a pictorial record. It is by no means comprehensive. You find projects almost completed, midway and just inaugurated. They relate to power, irrigation and industries. You also find groups of people working. They symbolise a new and significant movement in the resurgent rural India. The lethargy and fatalism of the olden days are vanishing—slowly but surely. They are taking the initiative in their own hands for a new order, a new life. You also find a researcher in a paddy field. He too represents something new—the wedding of science to the old, old occupation of our people, agriculture. Well, let the talk of past records cease; let the determination or pledge be for showing a better record when the day dawns next year!

Misc. 147



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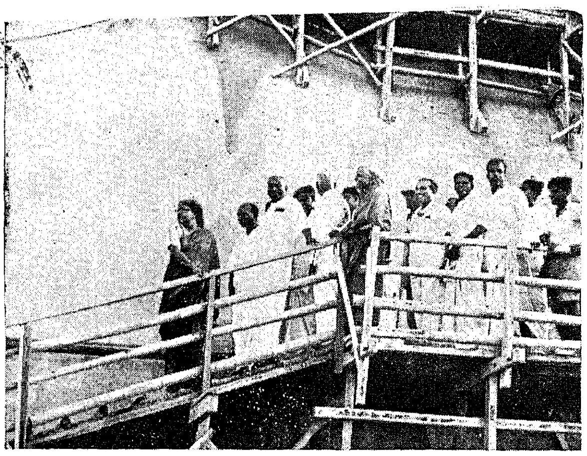
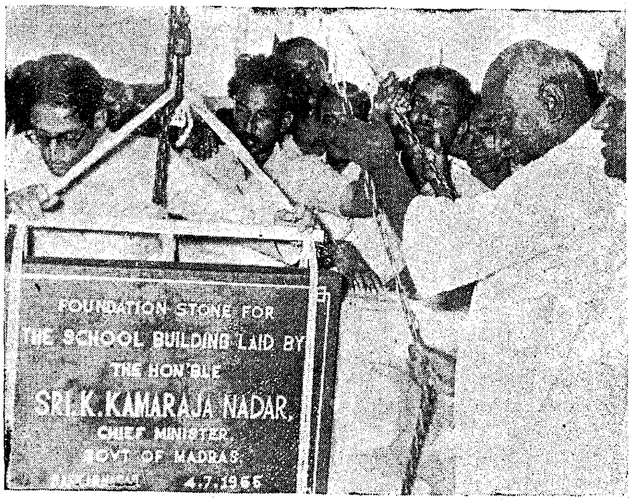
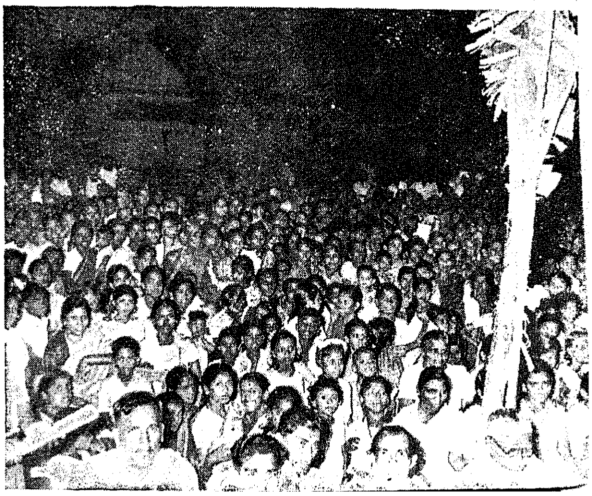
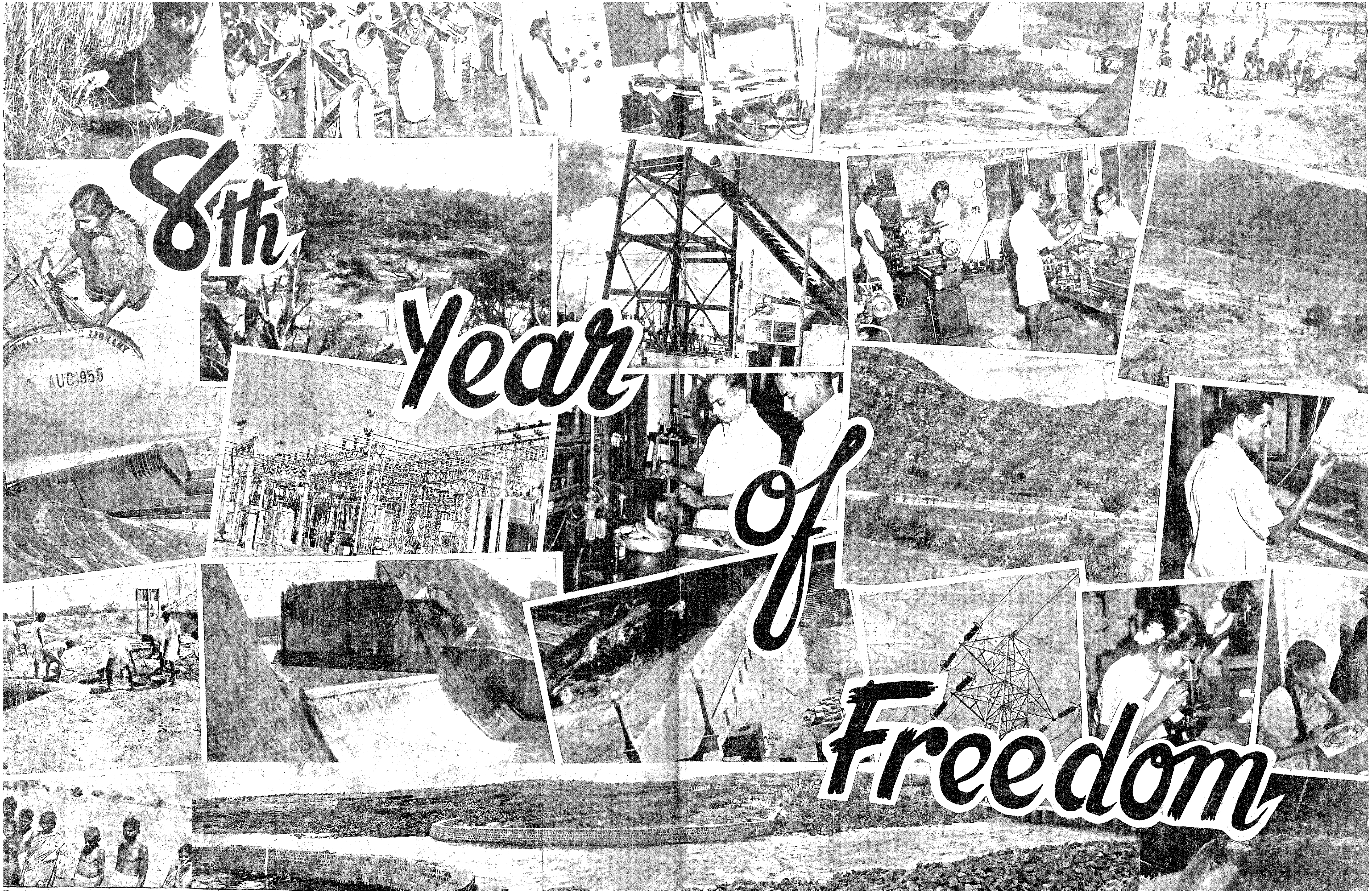




INSPECTING PROJECTS, SEEING PEOPLE

Sri K. Kamaraj, Chief Minister recently toured the district of Tirunelveli. Here in these pictures you see him inspecting the Manimuthar Project, laying foundation stones and inaugurating a Rural Water Supply Scheme. He is also seen in the midst of people, the ultimate source of all strength.





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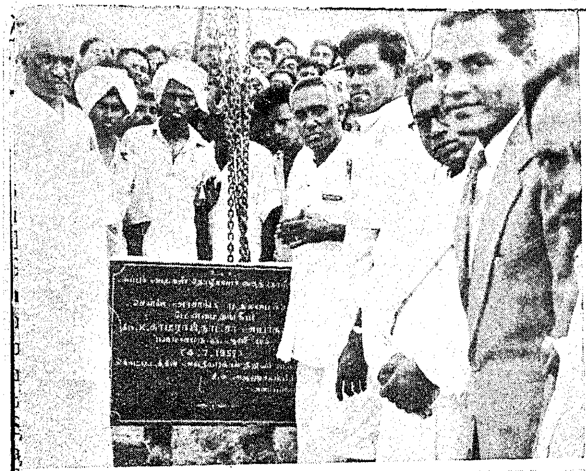
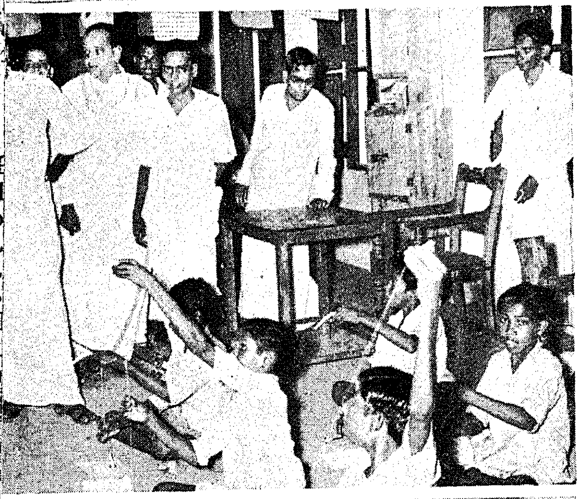




Inaugurating Schemes, Meeting Children

In this page, you see the children of Tirunelveli District having a pleasant chat with the Chief Minister. One wonders whether they have any grievances ; even if they have, it is being conveyed in the pleasantest of moods.

Vanamahotsava

By Sri N. MURUGESA MUDALIAR, Deputy Secretary to Government, Agriculture Department

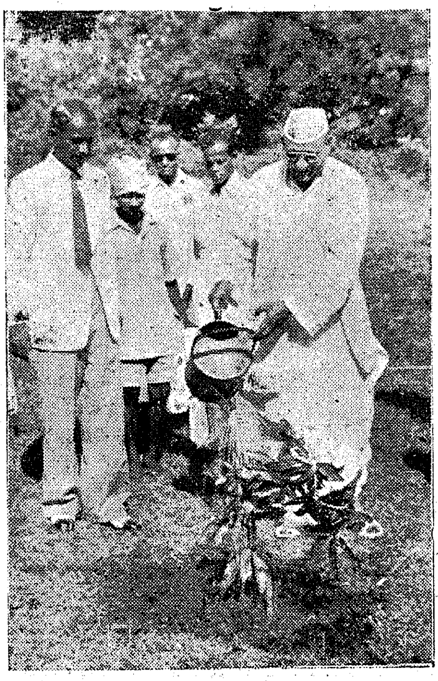
Thoughtlessness Realised

The first week of July calls us to a task of national importance. Six years ago, we realized that the thoughtless and rapid deforestation that was going on for some time was bringing us to the verge of a catastrophe. Climatic changes became erratic, rainfall became scarce, water supply in the rivers dwindled and the fertility and the texture of the soil were seriously damaged. The treeless plains, the bleak hillsides and the denuded forests were proof of the folly committed in the years past. It reminded us of the ruin that overtook other countries in the past by the stripping of good earth of its raiment of trees, shrubs and plants. The civilization of the Indus did not survive the destruction of its soil; the once fertile regions of Israel were reduced to sterility; of the great forests of Central Sahara only a few Cyprus trees remain as relics. It was the price paid for imprudence and the inroads of civilization which had in itself the seeds of destruction.

It is an old story which needs no repetition. When the movement for growing more trees was started in our country six years ago, cynics scoffed and sceptics smiled; but the movement caught on. Today, it is no longer necessary to go into the raison detre of the movement. Although it is called Vanamahotsava, festival of trees, it should not be regarded as just another festival in our long calendar of festivals. Its implications are grim and its ultimate purpose, a matter of life and death. It is not a mere formal ritual of planting trees here and there during one festive week but is a never ending task of transforming the land with green verdure indeed, of transforming men's minds to better environment, better crops and better living.

The Poetry of the Tree

The tree planting campaign is not to supplant a sensible Government policy of forest preservation but to supplement it by popular effort. The appeal of the Vanamahotsava is therefore to the common man, the villager, the city dweller, the private forest owner and to all those who have some waste land which could be made richer and more beautiful by planting trees; not only more beautiful but more fruitful also, because trees could be planted not only for shade and ornament but also for food, fruits, fodder and manure. The bare piece of land which produces nothing of any value is a piece of ugliness and an affront to nature. If lovely spots of woodland are allowed to be wasted or damaged by vandalism or fiery mouthed goats, their beauty is robbed and destroyed. Farm lands without such hardy trees like babul or neem or pungam standing as sentries are a picture of vacancy. Highways without shady avenue trees will be like desert marches. Cottages and dwellings without a gold Mohar or rain tree or neem casting a cool shade and harbouring birds which chirp at the breezy call of the incense breathing moon are unaesthetic and without delight. Lake bunds and canals without tree linings make for the limpid waters more rapidly to evaporate.



Shri Sri Prakasa, Governor of Madras, watering a mango tree which he planted in connection with Vanamahotsava at Raj Bhavan, Guindy.

Housing colonies and townships without green belts are dull and colourless. Schools and colleges without tree growth around their precincts are a dreadful monotony, not very conducive to a happy evolution of young minds. Ruthless cutting of trees on private forests or topes or on private lands in hill towns for money or for raising less necessary crops is folly of the first magnitude to invite the demon of soil erosion. A careless Government policy which will not foster tree cover on catchment areas, for the purpose of augmenting irrigation for a growing economy and a growing population will spell ruin. It is needless to hold forth on the protective influence of trees and their productive uses. All life is at the mercy of soil, water and tree cover.

Continuous Efforts Needed

It is a common place criticism that the trees planted during Vanamahotsava under a momentary wave of enthusiasm or official influence do not survive long and are neglected and allowed to perish. This is not absolutely correct but it will be so long as men's minds are not transformed and they simply respond to the call in a half-hearted way. This very feature is an argument, not against, but in favour of a continuous effort. Hence the need for an increasing movement for awakening public consciousness. It is however foolish to expect that all trees planted would survive just as all children born do not grow to old age. Some wastage and loss

in all creative process is inevitable and inescapable. But apart from the loss the cumulative results of a continuous effort to plant trees will be substantial as it is demonstrably so to day after five years.

If a villager plants a few trees on his land, a school boy plants a gold mohar in the school compound, the road engineer plants avenue trees, each of them takes a pledge to see that the trees they plant survive. In the absence of such a consciousness, their acts will be without feeling and without purpose. If even the person who planted neglects this obligation, the vandal who cuts cannot be expected to have better qualms although the ancient law says that people who cut green trees will be issuless. The Government can only remind all concerned of the duty to protect and preserve trees and focus attention during this week. The rest should be left to the individual's and community's own good sense.

The Record of the State

The citizens of this State have not been lacking in his good sense and year after year they have been fulfilling and indeed more than fulfilling the targets set for planting and survivals hoped for. The percentages of of survivals have been more than 50 per cent which should be gratifying. This State has also been a winner of the All-India prizes so far awarded. Villages, districts and institutions have also been winners in the respective competitions. The target for this year is fixed at 57½ lakhs. Although the plantings may commence from now, they can go on till the end of October when the count will be taken. Realising the disparity in natural advantages for tree planting, regional prizes have been instituted by the Government so that districts more or less similarly situated from the point of view of natural advantages can compete on the same level. Realising also that in the countryside the effort has to be put forth mainly by villagers, village officers and village panchayats, it is proposed this year to institute separate rewards to stimulate their endeavours. A rolling cup will be awarded to the best village, in each Revenue Division and certificates of merit to village officers for the best village in each firka subject to the minimum survivals that would be fixed. A rolling cup will also be awarded to the best class I Panchayats and a similar award to the best class II Panchayat in each district. Remission of land revenue assessment leviable on assessed and unassessed waste lands and Government porambokes adjoining ryots' patta lands where ryots have grown fodder and green manure plants and shrubs will be continued for the fasli years 1364 and 1365.

To prevent vandalism and havoc by cattle, sheep and goats, officers conducting prosecutions against such offences will press for deterrent punishment subject to the provisions of the law. The ways and means of preventing illicit cuttings of avenue trees is under the active consideration of a committee recently set up by Government. So far as the planting and maintenance of avenue trees on National Highways are concerned over Rupees 4 lakhs is provided for in the Civil works budget.

Seedlings for Sale

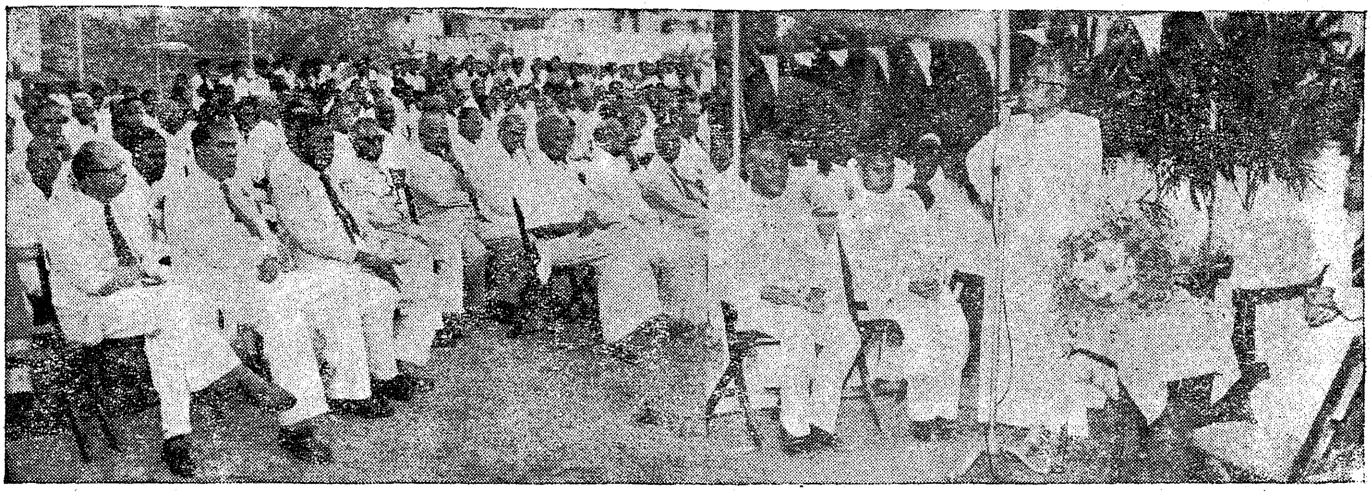
The Government are helpless to make arrangements for after care of trees planted but they make arrangements for supply of seeds and seedlings to the public at nominal cost. The Agriculture and Forest Departments have raised a large number of seedlings for sale to the public. The Agriculture department will give technical advice as to what trees should be planted and how to grow them. It would be excellent if the requirements of a whole village are pooled and the necessary planting material obtained from the nearest Agriculture or Forest Officer. The Agri-Horticulture Society in Madras City has also been given a small financial assistance for starting a nursery and supply seedlings to Madras citizens. Leaflets have been published giving hints about the growing of selected trees which will be useful in a variety of ways. People who require information should not hesitate to seek it. To be able to grow a tree is in itself a great education and delight and something to be proud of. We in this State have a variety of trees to grow according to our needs and circumstances—Caruvelam, Vepam, Vagai, Mayilkonnai—for fuel; Mango Jack, Katupala, Vengai, Vagai—for timber; Arasu, Karunkondrai, Vedanarayan, Poovarasam, Pumgam—for avenue; Thungumunji, Kalyanamurungai for fodder are some of the trees that can be grown. "Plant trees for prosperity" is not a mere slogen. Vanamahotsava has to be taken up in great love, faith and seriousness.

The first week of July is also an important week in another respect. Side by side with the greening movement, a cleaning movement which will turn waste into wealth has to be undertaken. A large increase of trees, village forests and woodlands will give ample materials for fuel and small wood for the nearby villages and towns. This would release cattle dung, which is now burnt to waste, for fertilising of soil and raising better crops. The collection of waste and the manufacture of compost, not only improves the sanitation of villages and towns but also gives many crores of Rupees worth of manure which would otherwise go to waste.

The manurial value of town compost manufactured out of night soil and town waste and of rural compost made out of village garbage, farmyard refuse, cattle dung and urine are too well-known. Town compost is now manufactured in most of the Municipalities and many of the Panchayats of this State. Rural compositing must be the first item of work in rural sanitation and rural reconstruction which our village level workers should take up. Villages in the National Extension Service and Community Project areas should set an example to the rest in this matter. Properly arranged compost pits not in the heart of the village but outside should be the first sign that should meet the eye in a village that is on the path of community endeavour and development. Composting costs little money, but produces valuable manure. Hence the Compost Week is united with the Tree Planting Week and the significance of the two should be easily understood.

Preservation of Wild Life

Let us hark back to the trees that we were considering at the beginning. Because man has invaded on the forests and laid waste to the flora and fauna, the wild beasts were driven out to do havoc on cultivated lands. The economy in Nature has been disturbed. India's wild life is becoming a rapidly diminishing asset mainly by excessive and indiscriminate killing and felling by poachers and profit seekers. A new awakening has dawned to arrest this danger and a Wild Life Board has been set up recently. It has already started its work and is tackling problems like close seasons, protection of animals and birds, prevention of illicit shooting, and trapping, development of game sancturies and national parks and



Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam, Minister for Agriculture, inaugurating the Vanamahotsava Campaign at Adyar on 1st July 1955.

public education on behalf of wild life. Under the inspiration of the Union Minister for Agriculture, the last day of the Vanamahotsava week will be celebrated as the Wild Life Day to focus attention on this another much neglected national problem. The object of the Day is to draw public attention to the need for preserving wild life and to create a love for the beauty and grandeur of wild life in children and in students. Lectures will be arranged on various aspects of wild life and visits of school children and college boys to the zoo and spots of wild beauty. An appeal has been issued to the members of the Wild Game Associations and various licensees to abstain from shooting for one week. Facilities will be arranged by the Forest Department for visiting wild game sancturies. In Cities like Madras, wild birds in captivity will be purchased and liberated as symbolic of the preservation of wild life. Wherever possible, films showing wild life will be arranged to be exhibited.

This year's Vanamahotsava is therefore imbued with a new significance to protect the trees and to preserve the fauna and flora of our beautiful land. This is a duty we owe to ourselves and to prosterity.

(*Courtesy, A.I.R.*).

Over the Air

In 1954, Indian aircraft on scheduled and non-scheduled services flew nearly 24 million miles carrying over half a million passengers and 181 million lb. of cargo and mail.

Crop forecast—Gingelly

The area sown with gingelly(sesamum) in Madras State in 1954–55 is estimated at 458,500 acres. Compared with the final area of 452,700 acres for 1953–54, the present estimate shows an increase of 1·3 per cent. The present estimate reveals an increase of 20·4 per cent over the average area of 380,800 acres calculated for the five years ending 1953–54.

An increase in area is estimated in the districts of Chingleput, North Arcot, Coimbatore, Tanjore, Tirunelveli and Malabar and a decrease in other districts of the State.

The crop has been or is being harvested in most of the districts of the State. The yield per acre is expected to be normal in the districts of Tanjore and Tirunelveli and slightly below normal in the remaining districts. The seasonal factor for the State as a whole works out to 97 per cent of the normal as against 93 per cent for the previous year. On this basis, the total yield works out to 57,700 tons as against 55,100 tons estimated for the previous year; representing an increase of 4·7 per cent. Compared with the average yield of 41,800 tons calculated for the five years ended 1953–54 the present estimate is an increase of 38·0 per cent.

The wholesale prices of gingelly seed per standard maund of 82-2/7 lb. or 3,200 tolas, as reported from important market centres on 9th April 1955, was Rs. 21–12–0 at Tuticorin, Rs. 20–6–0 at Tiruchirappalli, Rs. 20–1–0 at Salem and Cuddalore and Rs. 20 at Tirunelveli. Compared with the prices which prevailed on 10th April 1954, these prices show a decrease of 35·4 per cent at Salem 33·4 per cent at Tirunelveli, 31·0 per cent at Tuticorin, 25·9 per cent at Tiruchirappalli and 25 per cent at Cuddalore.

Facts and Figures

The cost of a hydro-electric project varies from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 3,000 per KW of installed capacity, depending on local conditions.

With a view to providing expeditious mail service in rural areas, as many as 1,754 runner's lines, totalling 14,519 miles, were replaced by motor services during the last five years.

The production of steel in India in 1954 amounted to 1,226,000 tons, an all-time record. During the same year 387,401 tons of steel were imported.

During the ten months ending January 1955, 988 companies, limited by shares, with a total authorised capital of Rs. 192·12 crores were registered as against 984 companies with a total authorised capital of Rs. 39·74 crores in the corresponding period of 1953–54.

During 1954, 310,604 tons of Ammonium Sulphate was despatched from Sindri to different parts of the country.

The total amount disbursed by the Rehabilitation Finance Administration as loans to displaced persons till the end of March 1955 was about Rs. 943·21 lakhs.

4 - AUG 1956

Fruit Growing on the Nilgiris

By SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM, Minister for Agriculture

Original Efforts

Looking back on the history of fruit growing on the Nilgiris it is on record that it was W. G. McIvor of the Kew Gardens, the first Superintendent of Government Botanical Gardens, Ootacamund, who in 1848 imported from England a large number of fruit varieties which he propagated on a large scale. They included apples, pears, plums, peaches, figs, mulberries, raspberries, nectarines, apricots, vines, currants and strawberries. Considering the potentialities of the different elevations for different kinds of fruits from the tropical to the temperate a fruit station was established by Government in 1871 at Burliar at an elevation of 2,500 feet, where a great number of exotic tropical and sub-tropical varieties of fruits were introduced.

In 1900, a second fruit station was established at a still lower elevation of 1,400 feet for introducing fruits suitable for lower slopes in the hills and in 1920 a third station at the higher slopes of 5,600 to 5,900 feet was established for growing temperate fruits such as apples, plums and pears. For over 90 years the development of hill fruits including such varieties as mangosteen, litchi, rambutan, durian and avacoda has been part of the work of the Curator, Government Botanical Gardens, Ooty. In the early years fruit growing was taken up by enthusiasts like George Oakes, Charles Gray, John Davidson and others.

During the year 1942 the horticultural work in the hills was brought under the supervision of the Fruit Specialist and in recent years considerable attention has been paid to the development of hill fruits and a wide variety of exotics have been introduced since then. Although the climatic conditions of these hills may not be quite as favourable as in some of the Western countires, still the range of climate in the regions where fruit growing is being practiced is found suitable for a large number of tropical and sub-tropical fruits, and temperate fruits like apples, plums and pears, have also been successfully grown. The Fruit Show today is a demonstration and evidence of the development of fruit culture in this hill district.

A Fascinating Avocation

Fruit growing is among the most fascinating of cultured avocations. The benefit that it gives cannot be measured in terms of mere money becuase it gives aesthetic satisfaction and beautifies the landscape particularly on the hills. It provides the best of foods, viz. fruits which are so necessary for health radiant living and so *satwik* for intellectual refinement. Fruit growing is not only a science but also an art. It requires a great deal of intelligent and patient hard work. You might remember that some of the world's greatest horticulturists like Michurin, started as amateurs. Fruit growing is not merely an absorbing pastime but it is also capable of commercial exploitation. In the United States of America, Spain, Italy, Brazil, South Africa and Syria, it is one of the sources of national wealth and trade.

I am glad to observe that commercial orchards have increased considerably on these hills during recent years and almost all the best exotic hill fruits that are available for consumption are grown here, starting from Mangosteen

; was a hectic tour as usual, but Sri K. Kamaraj, Chief Minister found time to pluck a bunch of grapes from a vine yard in Ganguvarpetti in Madurai district during his recent tour. He and the members of the party seem evidently enjoying the sweet fruit.

at the lower elevation to apples, pears and plums at the higher elevation. I am also glad to note that the Government Model Orchard and Nursery here is being made full use of by the fruit growers.

Research Work

At Coonoor, Burliar and Kallar important research work is being carried on by our officers. Two mixed American apple varieties have recently been introduced and two Cherimoyer selections have emerged out as promising Rootstock trials on plums and peaches are also being undertaken. New introductions are olive grafts from Italy, tree onions from America and some new vine and pomegranate varieties. Hybridisation work on citrus, pine-apple, jack and annonas are also being attempted at Kallar and Burliar. Progeny trials with clove, nut meg and cocoa are also being conducted. There is unlimited scope for horticultural research in this area and I hope that our Agricultural Department will carry out sustained work which will benefit the fruit growers.

There are many possibilities of expanding fruit cultivation not only in the hills but also on the plains in this State. I have observed that many fruits like the seedless grapes, which were once considered as not possible a few years ago, are now successfully grown by careful cultural and manurial practices. The area under fruit is about only one per cent but the income per acre is nearly six to seven times when compared to grain cultivation. Fruit growing on a large scale will also in due course give scope for other industries like canning, dehydration, etc. You all know that the Second Five-Year Plan will be formulated with reference to the resources and it is my conviction that the pomological resources of the State should be developed to the maximum extent possible during the next Five-Year Plan period.

Need for Workers

This requires not finance alone but also a large number of first-rate workers in horticulture and cultivators who will take up this work with faith, devotion and patience and will not look for early dividends. With the transfer of the Kodur Fruit Research Station to Andhra this State has been left without one for the plains. A scheme for a regional research station under an All-India Scheme for specified fruits is likely to be sanctioned shortly. A small pilot scheme for fruit preservation has already been sanctioned recently. Three orchard-*cum*-nurseries at Periyakulam, Thimmapuram and Mangalore have been working for the past two or three years as ocular demonstration to fruit growers and to supply planting materials. There is keen demand for more fruit stations from areas like Salem, Tiruchirappalli, Tirunelveli and North Arcot.

Place in the Plan

Horticulture development will be one of the important aspects of the Second Five-Year Plan in the agricultural sector. The schemes will include not only the establishment of fruit stations and advisory services but also measures to control pests and diseases, the training of personnel, etc. According to the present thinking of the Government of India six horticultural training centres will be started in the entire country. It may be mentioned in this connection that in Madras we have been running for the past four years a horticultural diploma course, which has been affiliated to the University of Madras since last year. The Government of India are also contemplating the granting of loans for areas brought under new orchards. It is likely that a sum of about Rs. 14 crores will be provided for all India in the Second-Five Year Plan for horticultural research and development.

In the Second Five-Year Plan of this State which is in process of formulation the Government will ensure that sufficient importance is given to horticultural development. We have here a diverse climate in the various regions which favours the production of innumerable kinds of fruits. For instance, the hardy varieties thrive on the Nilgiris and higher Palnis above an altitude of 5,000 feet and in between 2,000 and 5,000 feet typified by parts of Wynaad, slopes of the Nilgiris, Shevroys and Palnis, mandarins, mango mangosteen, papaya, bananas, jack, pineapple, litchi, breadfruit, carambola, rose apples, avocado, etc., are found to thrive.

Another zone is represented by Malabar and South Kanara between sea-level and 2,000 to 3,000 feet where

Executive Committee Members of the State Farmers' Forum

The Government of Madras have appointed the following farmers as members of the provisional executive committee of the State Farmers' Forum, which is affiliated to the Farmers' Forum, India, constituted at the All-India Farmers' Convention. Sri S. K. Swami, Tenkasi—Convenor. *Members*: (1) Sri V. Govindaswamy Naidu, M.L.A., Chingleput district, (2) Sri W. P. A. R. Chandrasekara Nadar, Nilakottai taluk, (3) Sri S. Sambamurthy, Villupuram, (4) Sri R. V. Swaminathan, M.L.A., Ramanathapuram district, (5) Sri P. G. Karuthiruman, M.L.A., Coimbatore district, (6) Sri A. K. D. Balarama Raja, Rajapalayam, (7) Sri R. Ramamoorthy, Tiruchirappalli, (8) Sri V. C. Subbiah Gownder, Coimbatore district, (9) Sri M. Achuthan Nair, South Malabar and (10) Sri S. C. Balakrishnan, M.P., Palni.

The Government of Madras have approved of the draft constitution for the State Farmers' Forum. According to this constitution, the objects of the Forum will be (1) to study the problems affecting the agricultural producers in Madras State, (2) to promote, advance and protect the social economic and cultural interests of the agricultural producers and village women in this State, (3) to assist in formulating and promoting State and national agricultural policies and to collaborate and co-operate with similar Organizations of Agricultural producers within and outside the State for furtherance of the said objective and (4) to take such steps for the fulfilment of the above objects as may be necessary from time to time; in particular—collection and expenditure of funds; undertaking publicity and publication of all kinds; holding meetings, conferences and seminars; sending representatives, delegations, deputations, etc.

mangoes, bananas, jack, pineapple, cashew, pummeloes, etc., are largely met. The major area under fruits is concentrated in the rest of this State with mango, banana, oranges, grapes, cashew, etc. We have sufficient potentialities to increase production and in the Second Five-Year Plan it is proposed to establish model orchards-*cum*-nurseries in all districts where no such units exist now. Unfortunately this must initially be a rather slow process as the selection of sites itself will take some time. But it should be seen that preliminary work is undertaken even in the current year. These nurseries will propagate, multiply and distribute plants from reliable stock in kind and varieties suited to the different areas. It is expected that about 5 lakhs of plants will be distributed in the course of the five years from these units. In order to expand the area under fruit and vegetable cultivation under private orchards in at least 10,000 acres, a scheme for grant of loans to ryots to cultivate fruits and vegetable in new areas is also proposed to be included. As at present proposed, the loan will be Rs. 300 per acre for new orchards recoverable in ten instalments. About Rs. 30 lakhs are proposed to be given as loans in this way.

Apart from these two schemes, schemes for increasing the area under pepper and cashew in favourable tracts will also be included in the plan. Whatever may be the nature of the schemes included in the Five-Year Plan, the Nilgiris district has to be dealt with from a special angle. Just as arid zones require a special kind of agronomy so also this district has to be dealt with, from a composite angle which will tackle the problems of soil erosion, afforestation and a sensible agronomy. Well-laid out orchards interspersed by judicious planting of bluegum or other plantation crops like tea will solve the problem of soil erosion for which your fair district which was one like "a little heaven dropped from out of the sky" has unfortunately become a by-word. I am not a pessimist and by the keen interest that growers here have taken all these years on their own initiative, but with the guidance of research work done here, I have no doubt that Nilgiris will become the paradise of fruits and flowers as never it was before. There is not only scope for increasing fruit cultivation but also for new crops like cocoa, cinnamon, clove, pepper and medicinal plants. At our suggestion, the Government of India have agreed to revive the Botanical Survey of India and I should think that the survey should start first from the Nilgiris for classification and systematization of the wild fruits and flowers and plants that still remain unexploited.

It only remains for me to congratulate the Organisers of this Fruit Show and all those who have praticipated in it for making this show an annual institution. By your efforts, I am sure that Nilgiris which has derived its name from the violet blossoms of Strovilanthes, will be covered with rich and luscious fruits which even the Gods should envy.

[*From the Speech of Sri M. Bhaktavasalam, Minister for Agriculture, opening the Fruit Show at Coonoor on 4th June* 1955.]

Quiz

1. The Rs. 71·69-crore Chambal Valley Project, when completed through all its three stages, will generate :

(*a*) 158,000 KW of electricity.
(*b*) 204,000 KW of electricity.
(*c*) 236,000 KW of electricity.

2. And the area of land irrigated by it in Rajasthan and Madhya Bharat will be :

(*a*) 8 lakh acres.
(*b*) 11 lakh acres.
(*c*) 14 lakh acres.

3. Over four lakh persons have subscribed in the National Plan Certificates, which were issued from May 10, 1954, the total collections being :

(*a*) Rs. 6 crores.
(*b*) Rs. 7·5 crores.
(*c*) Rs. 9 crores.

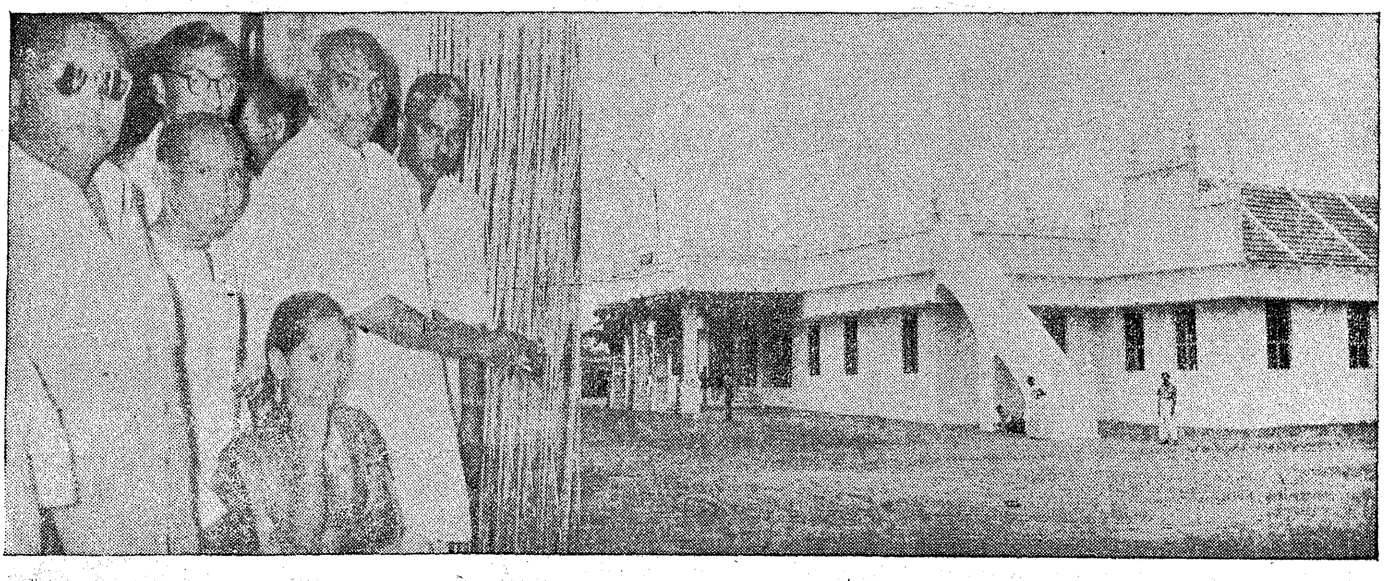
4. The total amount collected through the various T.B. Seal Sale campaigns, since they were started in 1950, is about :

(*a*) Rs. 40 lakhs.
(*b*) Rs. 50 lakhs.
(*c*) Rs. 60 lakhs.

5. The number of Welfare Extension Projects to-day, since they were started on August 15, 1954 by the Central Social Welfare Board is :

(*a*) 100.
(*b*) 150.
(*c*) 200.

Answers :
1—(*b*), 2—(*c*), 3—(*b*), 4—(*a*) and 5—(*c*).



The Board High School at Vedasandur in Madurai District opened by Sri K. Kamaraj, Chief Minister, during his recent tour of the district.

Our Legislature

The Programme of the Day

By Sri A. J. SABESAN, M.A., Secretary to the Council

'The main problems of Parliamentary procedure under existing conditions are two: on the one hand, how to find time within limited Parliamentary hours for disposing of the growing mass of business which devolves on the Government, and on the other hand, how to reconcile the legitimate demands of the Government with the legitimate rights of the minority—the dispatch of business with the duties of Parliament as the great inquest of the nation at which all public questions of real importance find opportunity for adequate discussion' Sri C. P. Ilbert, Clerk of the House of Commons.

The business of the Legislature resolves itself into three parts: (1) Legislative, (2) Financial and (3) Critical. It makes laws for the Government, votes supplies and influences the administration of the Government by means of questions, resolutions and other motions. The hours at each sitting are allotted for definite kinds of business and the Legislature sets about its task according to a pre-arranged programme. Let us skip a day and see what it does and how it works.

The Houses normally begin their sittings at 11 a.m. and conclude at 5 p.m. with an adjournment for lunch between 1–30 and 2–30 p.m. unless otherwise directed by the Speaker/Chairman. On Fridays, however, to enable the Muslim members to go for prayers, the Houses adjourn at 1 p.m. and begin again at 3 p.m. Members of the Government occupy the "Treasury Bench" to the Speaker's/Chairman's right with their party supporters behind them and the parties in the Opposition take their seats on the Speaker's/Chairman's left. At the appointed hour the arrival of the Speaker/Chairman is announced by one of the Clerks-at the Table and he takes his seat in an elevated chair at one end of the Chamber, all the Members standing till then.

The Business of the Day

The business of the day then begins. Items of formal or ceremonial nature as those mentioned below, if any, are first taken up. Any member duly elected and not sworn-in already takes the oath prescribed by the Constitution, reference is made to the death of Members or distinguished personages, if any, and a condolence resolution is passed *nem con* all the members standing in silence for a few minutes. The House sometimes adjourns for a few minutes, or for the day, as a mark of respect to the deceased. This is the occasion also for congratulatory messages (Greetings to Mahatma Gandhi on the occasion of the attainment of Independence by India, the successful termination of Police action against Hyderabad State, the escape of the Prime Minister of India in the incident at Nagpur).

"Question time" then begins. The questions and the replies on matters covering a wide field are "an unfailing source of interest and also of entertainment to the visitor" till the end of the first hour of the sitting or till the questions on the list for the day are disposed of, whichever is earlier. Often times there is an important question about an assignment of land, a house search or an arrest, etc., and the member not satisfied with answers to his question and the supplementaries thereon appeals to the Speaker/Chairman for an half-an-hour debate on that subject after the conclusion of the business of that day, which is accepted or not in the discretion of the Chair.

Formal announcements are then read out by the Speaker/Chairman, a message from the other House in regard to Bills, assent by the Governor to Acts passed by the Legislature or the result of an election to a Committee of the House, etc.

The House then comes to the further list of business for the day. But opportunity is given at this stage under the rules for adjournment motions, Ministerial Statements and private explanation or apologies and raising questions of privilege which do not find a place in the agenda. These do not always occur and there is no particular order in which they are to be taken up.

Adjournment Motions

A member from the Opposition Benches, with the consent of the Speaker/Chairman obtained beforehand, rises in his place and says:

> "Mr. Speaker/Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that the business of the House be adjourned for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, viz....."

Generally speaking these motions have relation directly or indirectly to the conduct or default of the Government, "some act of commission or omission on their part", and are in the nature of criticism of the action of the Government. In the House of Commons, an adjournment motion, if passed, amounted to a vote of confidence or a vote of censure on the Government. It was therefore held not advisable in this Legislature for a member of the party in power to bring forward an adjournment motion merely for the purpose of raising a debate on a subject while there were other ways of doing so. The right to move this motion is subject to various restrictions summarised below.

The motion must be clearly and precisely expressed and shall raise a definite issue. It will not be in order to move for adjournment regarding labour disputes in three different places. A motion on the possibility of atom bombs being used was disallowed by

the Speaker of the House of Commons on the 6th December 1951 as no event had occurred which had created an emergent situation and the use of atomic weapons was still in the realm of hypothetical and could be discussed at any time.

The "urgency" is one depending not on the subject of the motion but on the urgency of the debate, namely, that in the special circumstances of the situation the House must discuss the matter in question immediately temporarily superseding other pending business and that a resolution with proper notice coming up for discussion in the ordinary course or a motion of censure would be too late, e.g., the direct action contemplated by N.G.Os. and the withdrawal of recognition to their Association; the economic crisis threatening the State by the policy of the Government. Motions which anticipate a matter previously appointed for consideration or which could be discussed within a reasonable time, as during the general discussion of the budget, are not in order.

Matters of day-to-day administration (unsatisfactory distribution of yarn to handloom weavers, harrassment by officials in the courts) or matters under adjudication by a Court of Law cannot be the subject-matter of an adjournment motion. It will not be in order to move an adjournment motion where there is no departure from the ordinary administration of the law (Police raid on a certain newspaper office), or where the evil complained of was continuing for a long time (malpractices and harrassments in the procurement of foodgrains in Chidambaram taluk), or where there was a remedy in a Court of Law (arrest of tappers at Kunnathoor).

The motion must relate to a matter "of public importance" and also involve the administrative responsibility of the Government. Leakage of question papers is a matter for the University, an autonomous body and not the Government. The motion must not also raise a question of privilege or policy or refer to grievances which can only be remedied by legislation nor should it be taken advantage of to force the Government to bring forward legislation.

The Speaker/Chairman reads the statement to the House and decides whether the matter proposed to be discussed is in order or not under the above restrictions with due regard to precedents as to what is "definite" "urgent" and "of public importance." It is ruled out if he holds that it is not in order and it is within the discretion of the Chair to state the reasons for his opinion or not. If, on the other hand, it passes his "eagle scrutiny", he ascertains whether the mover has the unanimous support of the House and in case any member objects, the support of at least 24 members in the Assembly/10 in the Council. If the member fails to obtain the requisite support, he is informed that he has not the leave of the House. In such an event in the House of Commons the Member who asks for adjournment may challenge a division if not less than 10 members have risen when called upon by the Speaker but such a right does not exist under our rules.

"It is almost easier" as Quintin Hogg says "for a camel to pass through the needle's eye than for a member to secure a debate by means of this procedure." Out of 134 motions given notice of in the Assembly from 1946–54 only 6 were discussed, and in the Council 23 motions were given notice of and 5 discussed for the same period. Should a member still succeed in pressing it to a debate, the motion is taken up in the Assembly on the same day or at the request of the Leader of the House on the next day at 4 p.m. or at the conclusion of the business of the day if earlier, and in the Legislative Council at such hour on the same day or at such hour on any other day as may be fixed by the Chairman in consultation with the Leader of the House.

The debate on such a motion, if not earlier concluded, automatically terminates at the end of two hours after the commencement of the debate and thereafter no question should be put. It is also not necessary that like any other motions it should terminate in a vote and is usually talked out or withdrawn with the leave of the House.

A statement is made at this stage by a Minister on a matter of urgent public importance (Promulgation of the Madras Maintenance of Public Order Ordinance, Food situation in Guntur district, etc.) or by the Leader of the House about the business of the House. At times a member calls the attention of the House to any unexpected situation that has arisen (Closure of the Thakkar Baba Vidyalaya Hostel, Madras, the tragic death of a boy by electrocution in a public street, etc.), and the Minister concerned makes a statement or asks for time to make a statement later. Only one such matter has to be raised on the same day under the rules. In these cases, members are allowed to ask questions in the nature of supplementary questions for elucidating the statement or eliciting further information on points "arising out of the statement" but only to a limited extent as otherwise "the give and take of questions may develop into a ragged and wrangling debate."

Personal Explanation

After question-time is the occasion also for personal explanation by a member to correct mis-statements or to clear his character. A harmless supplementary question in the Asembly as to why there was so much of "Kumbakonam" in the matter of admission to the Government Arts College, Kumbakonam and what steps the Government proposed to take to prevent such "Kumbakonam", was said to have provoked a lot of agitation and protests in that town and on a subsequent day, the member concerned made a personal explanation that it was not his intention to wound anybody's feelings and whatever he had said was in good faith. A rigid adherence to established usage is waived in cases of personal explanation especially when the public conduct of a member is involved. An ex-Minister was once allowed to make a personal explanation in regard to the statement made by him the day before on the ground that an attack was made on his conduct in connection with the no-confidence motion by the Congress Party. On the 25th March 1954 the then Chief Minister made a statement in regard to press reports about his resignation so that, as he said, "the facts may be made clear where they have been clouded."

Collective Responsibility

The principle of collective responsibility of the Ministry has now been gradually accepted and Article 164 (2) of the Constitution specifically provides that the Council of Ministers shall be collectively responsible to the Legislative Assembly of the State. The defeat of certain Ministers in the General Elections, 1952, was taken as a reflection of the confidence of the public and the Ministers resigned as a body though the Governor accepted only the resignations of some of them who were defeated at the polls and asked the remaining Ministers to carry

on the Government till a New Ministry was formed. A non-official resolution was carried in the Assembly against the Government but the Ministry did not resign, and on the point being raised in the Assembly, the Speaker held that it was not for him to give a ruling or advise the Government as to the action to be taken by them. A change in leadership of the Ministerialist Party has been followed by a change in the personnel of the Ministry.

No Confidence Motion

A motion may also be made expressing want of confidence in the Ministry or disapproving the policy of the Ministry in a particular respect. Leave to make such a motion is asked for after question time with the consent of the Speaker/Chairman. The procedure in regard to adjournment motions is adopted in this case also except that the number of members required in support of the motion is 25 in the Assembly and 15 in the Council and it is taken up on a day to be appointed by the Speaker/Chairman within 10 days. A "No Confidence Motion" cannot be moved by way of an amendment to the Resolution of Thanks in reply to the Governor's Address as there is a specific procedure prescribed under the rules for this purpose. A "Vote of Confidence" may also be moved as was done in the Assembly in June 1952 but no amendments are allowed to such a motion.

The visitor can look for something dramatic at this stage in the event of a ministerial crisis. The member who has resigned the office of the Minister rises from his new seat (in the Opposition where there has been a change of the party in power) and amidst great excitement in the galleries (there was clapping of hands in the Galleries even when Sri T. Prakasam rose to make a statement) and tense expectancy among the members, makes a statement in explanation of his resignation which is usually interrupted with laughter and interjections like "Hear", "Hear", "You have now seen what it is" "Oh", "Oh", "No, No", and "Yes, Yes". The Speaker/Chairman calls him to order if without confining himself to the reasons for his resignation, the ex-Minister exhorts other members as to their future conduct or gives a resume of his work. The Minister then makes a statement pertinent thereto but no debate is allowed.

Privileges of Members

Article 194 (3) confers on the State Legislature and its members the powers, privileges and immunities of the House of Commons of the United Kingdom and its members. A member will now be on his feet with a complaint of breach of privilege arising out of any article in a newspaper or other matters, as for example, publication of budget proposals in the press before the presentation to the House, the imposition of restrictions on admission of visitors to the Legislator's Hostel, The Speaker/Chairman satisfies himself whether or not a *prima facie* case of breach has been made out and whether the matter is being raised at the earliest opportunity. As soon as holds that a *prima facie* case exists, a motion is made that the alleged breach of privilege be referred to the Committee of Privileges or in the alternative that it be dealt with by the House itself. When it is referred to a Committee, it investigates the matter and makes a report on it. The House considers that report when it is brought before it and decides whether the offender should be punished. Where no reference has been made to the Committee the case is, on a motion made in the House, dealt with by the House itself in such manner as it may think fit. The Speaker/Chairman may also *suo motu* refer any question of breach of privilege to the Committee of Privileges. On 10th February 1955 a question of privilege was raised in the Assembly about the arrest of a member and on a motion moved by the Leader of the House and carried, the House decided to sit in *camera* and the matter was discussed in a secret session.

"Questions and urgency motions are the cocktails before the oratorical feast" (W. I. Jennings—Parliament). These being disposed off, the House proceeds to the Orders of the Day as set out in the list of business. It may be a debate in regard to current affairs, a motion for the consideration of a Bill either introduced and proceeded with or continued from the stage at which it was left last time, a general discussion on the Budget or motions for Demands for Grants. The items are taken up in the order in which they are entered in the list of business unless the House agrees to a change in that order on a motion moved to that effect. Each motion as it comes up is moved by the member or the Minister in whose name it stands (and seconded in the case of non-official motions), a debate follows and after the reply by the mover, the Speaker/Chairman puts the motion to the vote of the House unless it is withdrawn, and the House divides if the opinion of the Chair as to the decision of the House is challenged.

One item after another is thus disposed of until the normal adjournment for the day. The House may also be adjourned earlier if on a count being taken at any time there is no quorum necessary to constitute a meeting of the Assembly/Council, or in exercise of the power of adjournment vested in the Chair as on the momentous occasion in the Central Legislative Assembly on the 8th March 1926 when the Swaraj Party, the largest party in the House, walked out of the Assembly and the then President Sri V. J. Patel, adjourned the House saying that in the circumstances the House ceased to be representative in the sense it was intended to be by the Act governing its constitution (Government of India Act, 1919).

Half-hour Discussions

The sitting is also at times extended for debate agreed to already. There may be a half-hour discussion on a matter which was the subject of a question on that day, such as assignment of lands to Harijans at Kalpattu village. Sometimes there is a debate for short duration not exceeding one hour on an urgent matter of administration (e.g., retrenchment of workers of Neyveli Project which led to a strike). In these cases there is no formal motion before the House nor voting, and the Chair usually fixes a time limit for the speeches by members and the Minister's reply to the debate. This procedure gives an opportunity to the House to express its views by way of criticism or advice and obtain a statement from the Minister on a matter which has aroused public feeling, and is at times availed of in the place of a motion for adjournment of the business of the House to discuss a matter of urgent public importance.

The presence of members and the interest in debate on these occasions will vary with the importance of the subject before the House. Personality also counts. The attendance will at times be bordering upon a quorum as for instance during the detailed consideration of certain Bills or a motion which does not meet with much opposition, and the few members present will be found "addressing themselves to the glossy unresponsiveness of empty benches." The half-hour debate on the then Premier's statement on the Andhra Province did not attract much attention and the

Assembly had to be adjourned for want of a quorum.

Dramatic Spectacle

On 21st December 1954 the Leader of the Opposition and a few other members of the Opposition walked out of the Assembly saying that they will not be a party to the passing of the Madras Dramatic Performances Bill, 1954 into law.

But the Legislature has, in the words of Michael Mac Donaugh,

"the interest of the highest dramatic intensity on the occasion of a big debate relating to the predominant political question of the day which deeply stirs party passions and prejudices and brings down into the arena of the floor the great chiefs to fight for principle with the keen and subtle weapon of the tongue."

One such historic occasion was the debate on the motion moved by Sri C. R. Reddy on 27th November 1923 :

"That a humble and dutiful address be presented to His Excellency the Governor submitting that the Ministry as now constituted by him, is against the weight of the verdict given by the country in the general election and does not possess the confidence of this House."

Another such occasion was the debate on the motion by the Leader of the House on 30th June 1952 :

"That this House expresses its confidence in the Council of Ministers of which Sri C. Rajagopalachari is the Chief Minister."

Mention may also be made of the adjournment motion moved on 9th October 1928 by Sri S. Satyamurti in regard to the conduct of the police in seizing copies of Subramania Bharathi's Songs :

"These are songs" he said "with the like of which one is familiar in English Literature such as praising the country, praising her natural beauties, praising her great heroes and her heroines, praising her great achievements, expressing unmitigated love for the motherland, expressing joy in her present and hope in her future."

and quoted extensively from Bharathi's works. After a number of such "impassioned and poetic speeches" appealing to members to join "in effectively condemning this deliberate inroad by the Government on the expression of the national feeling" and a statement by the then Law Member of the "prosaic facts" connected with the incident, a closure motion was moved and carried before the automatic termination of the debate and the motion "that the business of the House be now adjourned" was pressed to a division and carried, followed by loud and prolonged cries of "Vande Mataram" from the Opposition benches.

The heated atmosphere of the debate at times, the interruptions the cheers and counter cheers, the way in which members "troop into the Chamber" when the division bell rings and the air of intense expectancy when the division is actually in progress are more to be lived than said. One cannot help feeling that the Legislature is not merely a mechanism but also a living organisation, a "pageant" a "dramatic spectacle."

At the conclusion of the day's proceedings, the Speaker/Chairman rises from his seat and adjourns the House to the time and day announced by him for the next meeting.

The house then adjourns for the day.

Coal Export

India exported 2,021,956 tons of coal in 1954. The export of mica in the same year was valued at over Rs. 6·52 crores.

Crop forecast—Cholam

The area sown with cholam (jowar) in Madras State in 1954–55 is estimated at 1,953,000 acres. Compared with the final estimate of 1,994,600 acres for the previous year, the present estimate is a decrease of 2·1 per cent. It shows an increase of 11·3 per cent over the average area for the five years ended 1953–54, viz, 1,754,400 acres.

Cholam is not grown in the district of South Kanara and it is an insignificant crop in Malabar, Tanjore and the Nilgiris districts. Compared with the final area of 1953–54, the present estimate reveals an increase in the districts of Chingleput, South Arcot, Tiruchirappalli, Tanjore, Ramanathapuram, Tirunelveli, Malabar and the Nilgiris and a decrease in the other districts of the State.

The Seasonal Factor for the State as a whole works out to 98 per cent for Karif crop and 95 per cent for rabi crop, as against 96 per cent and 94 per cent respectively for the previous year. The total yield for the State works out to 637,800 tons of unhusked grain or 542,100 tons of cleaned grain. This shows a decrease of 0·1 per cent when compared with the yield of 638,500 tons of unhusked grain or 542,700 tons in terms of cleaned grain estimated for the previous year and an increase of 38·9 per cent as compared with the average yield of 459,300 tons of unhusked grain or 390,500 tons of cleaned grain estimated for the five years ended 1953–54.

Dr. A. Lakshmanaswamy Mudaliar, Vice Chancellor of the Madras University, speaking at the U. N. Day celebrations in the City on 26th June 1955.

Rural Electrification

The number of villages elctrified during May 1955 in the various systems is given below with particulars of taluks and districts :—

		Taluk.	District.
		I. *Pykara System.*	
1	Marudur	Avanashi	Coimbatore.
2	Velayapalayam	Do.	Do.
3	Nanjaipuliampatti	Gobichettipalayam.	Do.
4	Thookanaickenpalayam	Do.	Do.
5	Valliampalayam	Udamalpet	Do.
6	Narayankottai	Periyakulam	Madurai.
7	Muthuveerappatty	Do.	Do.
8	Majur	Udipi	South Kanara.
		II. *Mettur System.*	
9	Perangiur	Tirukoilur	South Arcot.
10	Kilmurungai	Gudiyatham	North Arcot.
11	Pasandapalli	Tiruppatthur	Do.
12	Valiwanur	Walaja	Do.
		III. *Papanasam System.*	
13	Alanganallur	Nilakottai	Madurai.
14	Irumbadi	Do.	Do.
15	Thalaikulam	Srivilliputtur	Ramanathapuram.
16	Papakudi	Ambasamudram	Tirunelveli.
		IV. *Madras System.*	
17	Kolathancheri	Chingleput	Chingleput.
18	Konganacheri	Do.	Do.
19	Ozalur	Do.	Do.
20	Sholavaram	Ponneri	Do.
21	Keelakattalai	Saidapet	Do.
22	Moovarasanpatti	Do.	Do.
23	Nanmangalam	Do.	Do.
24	Rendamkattalai	Do.	Do.

More Training Colleges

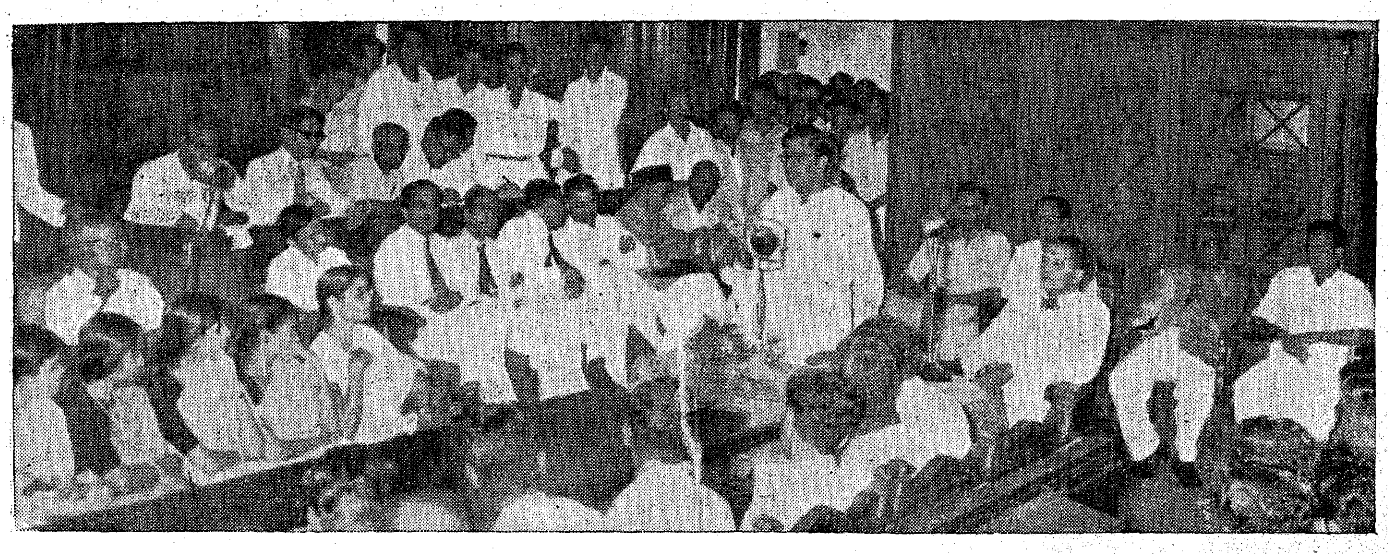
The Government of Madras have sanctioned the opening from the academic year 1955–56 of three Government Training Colleges at Pudukkottai, Vellore and Komarapalayam (Salem district). One of the Colleges will be a Women's College.

Seventy-five students will be admitted in each College to begin with. The optional subjects in each college will be English, Tamil, Mathematics and Social Studies. The necessary expenditure for the construction of buildings for these colleges has also been sanctioned.

The Lengthening Roads

One thousand and fourteen miles of pucca and 11,665 miles of kucha roads were built under the Community Projects, Community Development and National Extension Service programmes up to September 1954.

During the same period 152 production-*cum*-training centres for the development of arts and crafts were started under these programmes.



Sri C. Subramaniam, Minister for Finance addressing one of the meetings of the Secretariat Association during the Service Week.

4- AUG 1955

Preservation of Wild Life

By Sri A. B. SHETTY, Minister for Health

There is appropriateness in associating the celebration of " Wild Life Day " with Vanamahotsava. Vanamhotsava week is intended to promote extension of tree lands and arouse public attention to the need for the rehabilitation and development of forests which play a vital role in our country's economy. Woods, forests and wild animals go together. Wild life is a source of great fascination to us. Children hear and read stories of wild animals with eager interest and take delight in seeing their pictures.

Their Great Variety

A visit to the zoo gives pleasure and excitement to young and old. Every day about a thousand people visit the Madras Zoo. The sight of wild animals in their natural surroundings in the forest is thrilling. Many naturalists have written about the beauty and variety of wild animals in India. There are said to be more than 500 species of mammals. The furs, hides and horns obtained from them form a valuable asset to the country. The avi-fauna is also rich and varied. Several of the fine specimens of wild beasts and birds seem to have progressively diminished in many parts of the world.

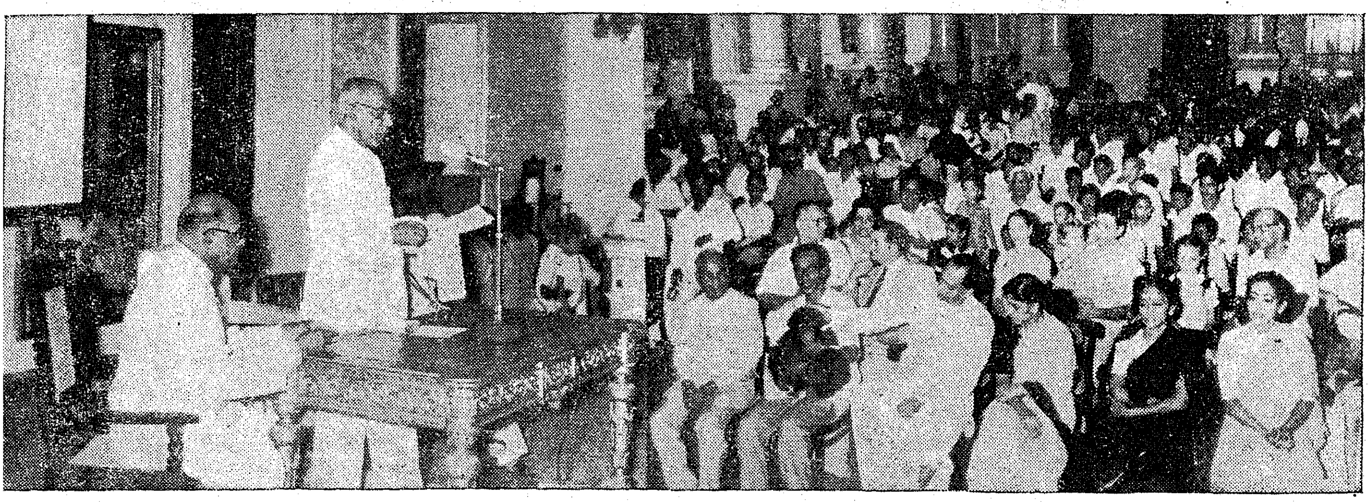
The clearance of jungles for cultivation purposes and the denudation of natural forests by overfelling of trees during war time have diminished the area of shelter needed for wild animals. Professional poachers destroy wild life to a great extent. Shooting from motor cars or jeeps at night with the aid of electric light and the use of the more efficient arms and equipment of to-day have increased the pace of such destruction. The modern movement for the preservation of wild life has taken practical form on a vast scale in many countries of the world. Africa, the land of big game animals, has several game preserves. The U.S.A., Japan and other countries have National Parks and Wild Life Sanctuaries.

The Need for Preservation

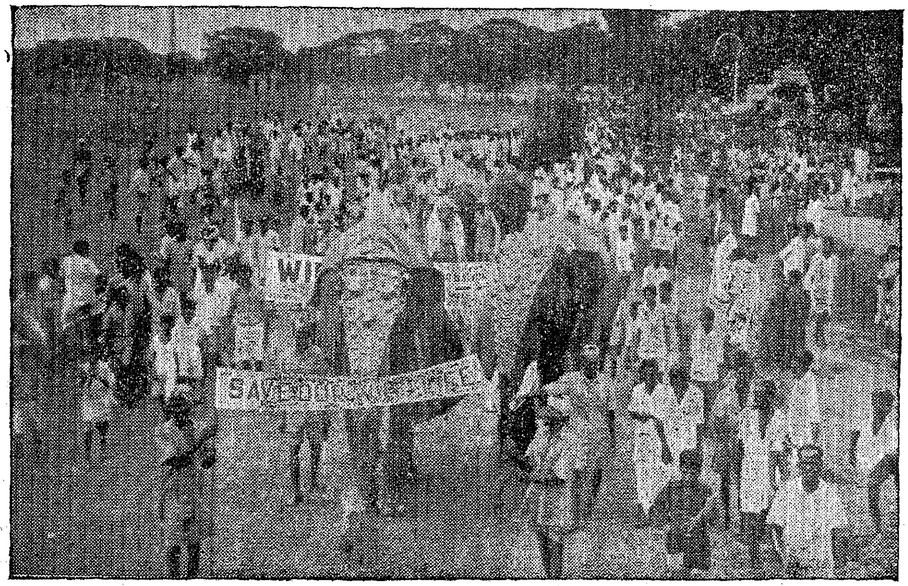
The need for wild life preservation is now well recognized in this country also. The forest policy laid down by the Central Government in 1952 emphasises the need for affording protection to wild animals and particularly to the rare species which are on the verge of extinction. Among the big animals, the lion is confined today only to a small tract in Sourashtra, namely, the Gir Forest. The rhinoceros of Assam is fast disappearing. Similarly, there are other wild animals which are dwindling in numbers in all States. An Indian Board for Wild Life Conservation has been constituted by the Central Government in 1952. Several of the State Governments have set up their own State Wild Life Boards. Game Reserves and Wild Life Sanctuaries have been established.

Wild Life Sanctuaries

There are two National Parks in Bombay and U.P. A State Wild Life Board has been constituted here in September 1954. Special organizations have been functioning in the Palni and the Nilgiri hills for the purpose of regulating shikar and preservation of game in those localities. Madras has had a Wild Life Sanctuary at Mudumalai forests in the Nilgiris district since 1940. This Sanctuary is now being extended over an area of 120 square miles running up to parts of the forest range of Wynaad division. Visitors can go on elephants to the sanctuary and see wild life there in its native haunts. Proposals are under consideration for converting this sanctuary into a National Park, providing



The Wild Life Day was inaugurated by Sri A. B. Shetty, Minister for Health, at Rajaji Hall.



The procession taken out in the City in connection with the Wild Life Day.

various amenities to attract visitors and tourists. The establishment of a sanctuary for birds in Chingleput district is also being contemplated. The All-India Conference of the Superintendents of Zoos which met in Madras City in May last, seems to have taken up the question of the improvement of Zoos. This is a welcome move since Zoos have a scientific and educative value.

The forest area which is set apart for the purpose of the sanctuary is well away from cultivation. The agricultural population need have no apprehension about the measures that are being taken for the protection of wild life. Crop protection gun licences are being given to ryots. What is prohibited is the shooting of animals and birds which are threatened with extinction and the destruction of females and immature males among certain species in reserved forests. The shooting of other animals and birds is regulated by rules. The preservation of the larger carnivores will keep in check the growth of the numbers of the crop-destroying animals like the wild pigs, deer, monkeys, etc. The maintenance of the balance of nature in this way serves a useful purpose.

Enlightened Public Opinion

Dr. Punjabrao Desmukh, the Union Minister for Agriculture, has rightly observed that we cannot rely only on legislation to stop the excessive and indiscriminate killing of our beautiful birds and animals by poachers and shikaries. He has stressed the need for developing a strong and enlightened public opinion in order to create the right atmosphere for the execution of plans for the preservation, systematic management and perpetuation of wild life. Government of India have, therefore, decided that a " Wild-Life Day " should be observed annually all over the country and that the first annual day should be celebrated this year on the last day of the Vanamahotsava Week.

It is hoped that this celebration will focus attention of the public, especially of students and children, to the need for cultivating a Love of Nature and the preservation of the fauna and flora in Wild Life.

Zoological science tells us about the extent of animal life which shares the world with Man. Human creatures are just one species of mammal among many hundreds of other species. Man represents the last link in the long chain of evolutionary process. The progress of science enables us to understand better to-day the wonderful living world about us and its inter-relationship. Out of this understanding must come greater sympathy for the host of animal companions with whom we human beings are going through the life adventure.

[*Speech delivered by Sri A. B. Shetty, Minister for Health, inaugurating the Wild Life Day at Rajaji Hall on 7th July* 1955.]

Number of Factories and their Inspection

There were 6,914 Factories at the beginning of the year. The number of factories at the end of the year was 6,748 of which 6,348 factories were in commission.

The total number of inspections and visits made by full-time Inspectors during the year was 18,774.

Plans: 2,103 plans were scrutinised by the Chief Inspector of Factories during the year as against 2,256 plans in 1953.

Complaints: 1,280 complaints were received during the year as against 1,184 in 1953.

Health: The health of the workers was generally normal. No epidemics were reported from any of the factories during the year.

Accidents: There were 6,014 accidents during the year as against 5,628 in 1953. Of the accidents reported during the year 17 were fatal.

Prosecutions: The occupiers and managers of 309 factories were prosecuted during the year as against 195 factories in 1953.

The Madras Maternity Benefit Act: The average daily number of women employed in 2,309 factories from which figures were received was 58,020. 4,901 claims were made during the year as against 3,843 in 1953. The total amount of benefit paid was Rs. 1,48,160 as against Rupees 1,45,750 in 1953. No woman was employed in any factory during the four weeks immediately following the date of confinement.

Employment of Children Act: The Employment of Children in establishments covered by this Act has been effectively checked.

. . . and the Desert Bloomed

This moving account of development work in a Community Project centre in West Bengal will bring tears of joy in the eyes of any sensitive reader. What tremendous potentialities lie within some of our simple people! When a spark of idealism kindles it, dynamic energy sufficient to change the face of the land is created. Look at Dibakar the village worker, and those simple Santal Women! We have reproduced it from "The Weekly West Bengal", *the official organ of the West Bengal Government.*

Who gave its name to the village I do not know. Stark, barren fields lay all around it, with a jungle in the distance. There was no sign of water within a mile and a half. Women, after their day's work, fetched water at night from a stream, two miles across the forest. They left their relatives waiting eagerly by the road, for none could be sure that they would all return safely with the water. Not infrequently had wild animals attacked the poor water-carriers. A quiet, charming girl had gone to fetch water some time ago. She never came back. Two days later a part of her body was found. Jungle animals, after appeasing their immediate hunger, had left the remnant for their future need.

I heard this story the first day I made my acquaintance with the people of Sukna. I immediately said, "We must have water in the village." In incredulous laughter, they dismissed my word. No one came forward to help. But frequent contact created personal ties. Nothing had yet been done to foster real confidence then. Still, unable to ignore my request, the entire village agreed to help in constructing a well. The work was completed in three weeks. Then women could draw as much water as they liked for their household needs. They took their bath, supplied water for the children's play. They did not even hesitate to be lavish with the water. The well looked to them like a tank, Two summers went by. Far from drying up, the water stayed undiminished.

Dibakar Chakravarti was the village worker for this area. But none of the Santal villagers called him Dibakar Babu. They addressed him as "Brother". The elder ones said just "Dibakar". How sweet and funny it sounded! Dibakar not only knew all the villagers; he had a tie of affection which bound him to every one. He had no end of concern for the villagers. He kept visiting our office all the time to settle little problems for them. A Santal "aunt" of his fell very sick. Arrangements had to be made for putting her into a hospital. A weaver brother of his, despite tramping Sainthia for four or five days, had failed to buy yarn for weaving. A little canvassing was necessary. On another occasion he came running in agitation—a Santali sister of his had been working over a month, her master became displeased with her and dismissed her without paying any wages. I looked behind Dibakar and found the girl in tears. As I turned my eyes towards Dibakar himself. I noticed tears glistening in his eyes too. In a choked voice he said, "Sir, you must come at once and find some solution."

He would never cease to come or hesitate to demand and intercede on behalf of his dear ones in Sukna. When there was poultry to be distributed, Dibakar would invariably be there just in time; when it came to hatching eggs, his demand would be the largest. When vegetable seeds were being supplied, Dibakar would come daily until he had collected enough for a kitchen garden for every house. A centre was opened in the block for distribution of milk powder. It was notified that it would not be possible to start a centre in Sukna immediately. Dibakar was not satisfied. He was aggrieved. For two months he kept on sending all the trainees of the Sukna Social Education Centre and the village mothers with infants in arms to the officers of the main centre. At last the authorities were compelled to open a centre in his village, too. On the opening day Dibakar was overjoyed. He gathered all the workers together. That day in his village he begged for the blessings of every person for the people of Sukna.

One evening I went to the village and found Dibakar busy in the adult literacy class with his elderly Santal brothers. They were exceedingly happy. With "Jai Hind" they greeted me. "Raghupati Raghava Raja Ram", they sang. Students wrote their names and addresses and held up the slates proudly for me to read. They read the "Anander Samsar". Through Bratachari songs and dances they expressed their joy. It filled me with happiness to see the enthusiasm of these simple folk. A ray of hope was kindled!

Dibakar and I walked back home together from that class. We were silent for a while. Suddenly, I asked him, "Are you satisfied as the way the Social Education Centre in Sukna is functioning?" He replied, "No, I am not satisfied at all. If the villagers cannot improve their living condition through the Social Education Centre, it is useless. Those who cannot afford a square meal a day,—what meaning would '*Jai Hind*' have for them? How long could they be content chanting '*Raghupati Raghava Raja Ram*'?" I asked, "Can't we do anything in the matter?" He said "I don't know; and even if I did, where are the means? What can we do?" We could not finish our talk. We returned to our respective homes.

Some time elapsed. Suddenly Dibakar started coming up to the headquarters very frequently. He never said anything. He talked of this and that and left. I realized that under the guise of asking for vain advice in trivial matters, he wanted to broach something which troubled him. One day I asked him straight. "Dibakar, do you want to tell me anyithng in

particular ?" He replied, "I had been thinking of telling you something for a long time, but I don't know if I should." After my assurance that he might speak without reserve, he said, "If we really want to help the people of Sukna somehow, we must get some land for the landless Santal farmers. If we can get each of them some land of his own to till, there will be unprecedented enthusiasm. Then they will really begin to move forward." I enquired, "How is that possible ?" He said, "Zamindaries are going to be abolished soon and all big landholders are keen on setting their lands. If you go and request them, they will give you land on promise of deferred payment. You can then distribute that land among the landless people." I assured him of my help. Dibakar set me thinking.

Getting hold of land was not all. Waste land needed to be reclaimed for cultivation and huge expenses were involved. Even that was not the end. Without irrigation, double-cropping would not be possible. That also needed a great deal of money. Where would all this money come from ? Dibakar kept on coming. The vision that had flashed across his mind began to take a firm hold. There was no stopping him.

He collected all the facts. There were fourteen owners and two hundred bighas of waste land. He made five of the owners agree to make land gifts. They would not charge any price, if we made a gift of the land to the landless, reclaimed it for cultivation and arranged for its irrigation. He got one young landlord interested in the work. A thousand rupees in cash he agreed to lend to the poor Santals who wanted to take a lease of the land. But a lot more of cash was needed. Where was one to get it from ? Dibakar would not give up his dream. Somehow he had to have the land for his Santals. We approached the owners and gave personal guarantees. We assured them of fair price in the near future. Partly in fear, partly in respect, partly also because they had no other choice, they agreed to give up the land. Deeds were drawn up. On an auspicious day, twenty-two Santal families who had never dreamt of owning land divided two hundred bighas amongst themselves. What a great wave of joy surged up in the village that day.

The question was whether to start work after forming a co-operative society of all the villagers. We had differences of opinion on that point. It was decided that we should take the advice of the villagers themselves and abide by their decision. A meeting was called in the village. The idea of the co-operative society was explained to them. Everybody—even the women of the village—participated in the discussion frankly. It was decided that a co-operative society at the very start was unnecessary. Each person should cultivate his own land, keeping the principles of co-operative working in mind. But for collection of seed and manure or use of better ploughs and other implements, the village society would procure these on behalf of all. Thus, gradually, the conditions would be ripe when all the villagers could farm the land jointly and divide the harvest amongst themselves. Without any hesitation the Santals advised, "Though the idea of co-operative work was good, it was wiser not to start it initially; the mind was not yet ready to grasp it fully and mutual recriminations might arise to spoil the glorious promise." We did well by accepting their argument. In my opinion no sounder decision could have been reached.

So, the land was acquired. But how were we to make it cultivable ? We had provision for loans for reclaiming land in the block. The villagers submitted a petition for loan. But it was impossible to improve that stoney land within the permissible limits of the loan. What should be done ? In the meantime, a couple of tractors had arrived in our Calcutta, Office of the Community Development Organization. We wrote to the authorities. The Engineer came, gave encouragement, examined the land. He expressed his opinion,—a bigha of land could be reclaimed for twenty rupees.

A week later, Dibakar put two thousand rupees on my table. He had taken the money from the Santals in advance. He said "Make haste, the rainy season is coming. We must grow paddy on these two hundred bighas. If we can reclaim a hundred bighas, I will get you two thousand rupees more,—you get going without any hesitation." Hearing him, I was surprised and felt extremely happy. Who knew what effort he had to spend to collect such a large sum of money ?

After ten days the tractor unit arrived. Accompanied by a couple of his Santal brothers, Dibakar went cheerfully up to Sainthia and brought the tractors home on foot from there to Sukna. It was a distance of about twenty-five miles. The work started Men and women, young and old, every one in the village sat by the fields eagerly. In rapt attention they watched the bulldozer push and roar like a huge giant as the uneven useless land became arable in a short time. Then they shouted in self-forgetful joy. In two and a half weeks forty bighas of land were reclaimed. Arrangements started for sowing paddy.

But now trouble ensued. After calculation it was found that two thousand rupees had been spent after paying wages on an hourly basis. Only forty bighas were reclaimed. Good lord! A hundred was the target! What were we to do now ? How could we get so much money ? We were not prepared for this. Who was going to lend us money ? The rate of Government loan was fixed by regulation. Where was one to find a party to provide more loan ? Even if we did find one, why should he lend money to poor employees like us ? What a pity we could not keep our promise. With tears in their eyes, Santal women flocked around us, saying, "Babu, you gave us hope, and that is why we quit our jobs. Tell us where we can get land." I could not look Dibakar in the face. The moment one met his eyes, they filled with tears. We had never been in such a predicament before. Bewildered, we went from door to door to all the big bosses of the Government. Far from helping, they reproved us. They ridiculed us, calling us "little Vinobajis". Finding no way out, we went back to our brothers and sisters in Sukna. We told them plainly about our helpless condition. They listened attentively and then it was they who consoled us. They said "Babu, don't worry. God is there, you are here, and so are we all. If the machine does not work, let it lie still. We will all work with our hands and put the land right. Don't be unhappy."

Manual labour took charge of the job. It seemed it had to be that way for a long time to come until the Bulldozer could be worked again. In the meantime we had some money from the Patel Fund. This money could be used to renovate such ponds as might still yield potable water and water for irrigation purposes, provided the owners agreed to bear a third of the expense. There was a small pool in the midst of the land. Once it was used as a tank. If that tank could be renovated, the village would cease to be dry. Not to speak of drinking water, it would be

possible to irrigate two hundred bighas and another hundred and fifty bighas in addition. I told Dibakar about it. He started again in right earnest. But where were we to get a third of the cost from ? Dibakar called a meeting and invited me. For four hours I tried to make the villagers understand that if they worked for two-thirds of the prevailing rate of wages they could have the tank improved in the village. But how were they to make both ends meet if they worked for such poor wages ? They could not make up their mind. At that time roads were being built in every village in Mahammad Bazar. There was no dearth of work. If they worked on any of these jobs, they could easily earn one rupee and a half per day. How could they accept a rupee for earth work on the tank ? Would it be possible to satisfy their needs with only a rupee a day ? No, it was not possible.

Some time elapsed. Dibakar had not given up. He was going from door to door and discussing about the tank with his brothers, sisters and sundry other friends and relatives in the village. Suddenly he came one day,—two Santali women followed him. One of them was middle aged, Moni Mejhen by name. The other was quite young, around eighteen or twenty years of age, who would not tell her name in spite of being asked. Both of them were leaders among the women in the village. It was not only the women that they led, but they held sway over everybody. They said, "Babu, come to our women's meeting. Explain everything to us, and we will make the men work." It was a strange situation indeed. I realised Dibakar had his invisible hand in this. I went and saw an unprecedented scene. All the village women had assembled in one place. They asked me to explain everything, but they never really gave me a change. The moment I reached there, they said in one voice, "We women will dig the pond. We will gladly accept whatever wages you have to offer. We will listen to none. You are our big brother." Great commotion arose. I looked around, Dibakar had vanished. There was no news of him. I became astounded. What should I answer ? It looked as if they were on the war path against their menfolk.

After a while I noticed Dibakar coming. Behind him came all the men of the village. The village chief advanced and said, "Sahib, we misunderstood you. As you said, we will dig the tank for a third less than our usual rate. You arrange it." Oh, how happy the women were ! What a ripple of laughter went over them ! It still rings in my ears. It was decided that the tank must be renovated.

Ten bighas of marshy land was to be used for the tank. What should be the plan of work ? How should we secure the land for the tank ? After discussion it was settled that those twenty-two people who had taken lease of the land should give up some land as a gift. It would be a gift to all the villagers. The tank should belong to the village as a whole, and all the adult members there would be its owners. The work would be supervised by the villagers. Selections were made immediately. A tank committee was set up with Bhuku Murmu, Kalu and Jalpa. These three co-opted Renda Majhi, a leading man of the village. Among the women Moni Mejhen was mentioned as a member of the committee. She was vastly amused and said, "Oh no, what do I have to do with the committee ? Do I possess the intelligence of a man ? I can't do it." She rolled in laughter and continued in modest protestation. We knew however that she was of unusual intelligence.

The day after the committee was formed, our overseer, Siddhananda Chatterjee, with a tape in hand, started working from eight in the morning. He had two hundred men and women of Sukna as co-workers. They worked till 4-30. The Santals made hungry Siddhanta eat *gur* and *muri*.

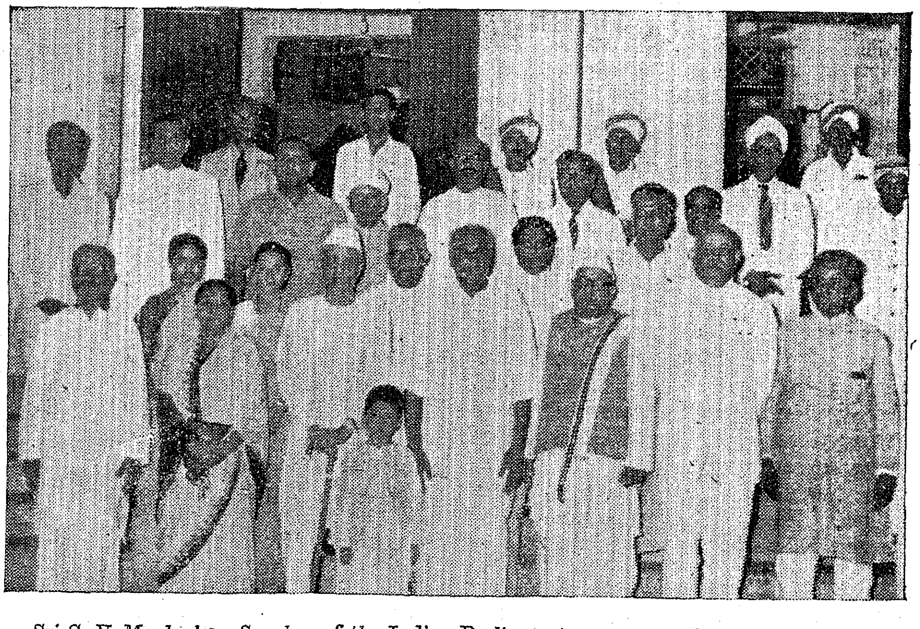
Then those of you who came to Sukna saw the rest. You met the tank committee and saw the Social Education Centre. Tank renovation was the most important work. Whether they were being able to do the job properly,—those who came here in sympathy should say. Yes, we did spend a good deal of time on this village. We never felt any of it was wasted. We did not regret it. Did we think right ?

If any one happens to come to Mahammad Bazar, let him come and see the village of Sukna and its people.

[*Translated by Srimathi Anu Banerjee, Special Officer, Development Department, West Bengal, from the original narrative by Sri Sushil Neogy, Project Executive Officer, Mahammad Bazar Community Development Block.*]

They Were Corrupt

During the month of April 1955, an Executive Engineer of the Public Works Department and a Sub-Inspector of Police were compulsorily retired, a Constable was dismissed, a Prohibition Guard was removed from service and the services of an Oil Engine Driver of the Agriculture Department were terminated.



Sri G. V. Mavlankar, Speaker of the Indian Parliament, was entertained at a tea party given in his honour by Sri J. Sivashanmugam Pillai, Speaker at the Legislative Assembly premises.

Tiruchendur Temple

By SRI K. K. MENON, B.A., B.L., Executive Officer

Tiruchendur, known to hoary antiquity as "Tiruchiralaivai" or "Jayanthipuram", is probably the most sacred shrine dedicated to Lord Subramania. Situated as it is in an ideally beautiful surroundings at the extreme south of the peninsula, with the foming waves of the Gulf of Munnar washing the temple walls on the north and east, it has for ages been a centre of saivite culture and worship.

Legends

According to legends, it is said that a demon by name Surapadma waged war against Gods and defeated them. They approached Lord Siva and prayed for help. He deputed his young Subramania, to help the Gods. Lord Subramania, marched from Mount Kailas with a host of followers and reached Tirupparamkunram near Madurai. He met sage Parasarar and sent his ambassador Virabahu to Surapadma for peace. But Surapadma was not for peace; he was adamant and for war. War broke out. It lasted for ten days. On the last day, the asura assumed the shape of a gigantic mango tree standing amidst the waters of the sea. Lord Subramania pierced the tree with his mighty "Vel" and transformed the tree into a cock and a peacock. The cock was kept on His flag as its symbol and the peacock as His Vahanam. This victory over Surapadma gave Tiruchendur the name "Jayanthipuram" or "Place of Victory."

History

History says that this is one of the oldest temples in South India. The exact date of its origin is still unknown. Some of the most ancient pieces of literature like Skandapuranam and Silappadikaram refer to this temple. Narkirar the famous poet of the "Third Sangam" has made prominent reference to this temple in his *Thirumurugathupadai*. Historians fix the age of the "third sangham" to be between the 5th century B.C. and 3rd century A.D. So the antiquity of this temple can safely be traced back to at least two thousand years.

Two slabs in the temple record an ancient inscription in Vatteluthu. King Varguna Maharaja made a grant of 1,400 kasus and entrusted the amount with three of his officers, viz., Iruppaikudikilavan, Sattamperuman and Alarrurnattukkon with a stipulation that the money should be lent out and with the interest of 20 per cent according therefrom the requirements of the deity of the "Tirumulattanam" should be met, the capital always remaining in tact. This Varguna Maharaja has been identified to be Varaguna II who lived in the 8th century. Another piece of historical evidence for the antiquity of this temple is the composition "Subramania Bhujangam" attributed to Adi Sankaracharlar who, according to historians, lived in the 8th century. It is said that Adi Sankaracharlar was attacked with an acute colic pain which he could not get cured by any means. Finally he came to Tiruchendur, prayed to Lord Muruga and got a cure. In happy ecstasy, he sang 33 stanzas in praise of Lord Muruga. These songs are contained in the work known as "Subramania Bhujangam" which is a classical work in Sanskrit extolling the greatness of Senthil Andavar.

Coming down to the Seventeenth century, we are told of how Senthil Andavar blessed Sri Kumaraguruparar with the power of speech: When a boy, Kumaraguruparaswami was dumb. His parents brought him to Tiruchendur. Forty days of continuous prayer did not show any sign of relief. Dejected and disappointed, the parents decided to throw the boy into the sea and commit suicide the next day. But early next morning, they were roused by the ringing melodious voice of a small child singing in praise of Lord Muruga. They opened their eyes. Lo! it was their son, the dumb little boy standing before Lord Muruga composing and singing the highly philosophical verses of "Kandarkalivenba." It was this very boy who later went to Madurai and inaugurated his immortal work "Pillai Tamil" before Tirumalanayak (1623—1659), when Sri Meenakshi herself appeared before him in the guise of a small girl of three years and presented him with a pearl necklace. And again it was this Kumaraguruparaswamy who was initiated as a sanyasin by the then head of the Dharmapuram mutt, who established the famous Tiruppanendal Mutt and who finally went to Benaras constructed the Kedar ghat, mutt and temple there.

Seventeenth century records another miracle performed in this temple. In or about the middle of the century, the Dutch invaders made some futile attempts to destroy this temple. Finally, thinking that the idol of Shanmukhar was made of Gold, they took it and started away. But their ship was caught in a terrible storm. They were told that the presence of the idol in the ship was the cause of ill-luck for them. They immediately threw the idol of Nataraja which they had taken from Nallur and the idol of Shanmughar into the sea. The storm subsided. Later, when the temple authorities took steps to replace the idol, one Vadamalaiappan Pillaiyan, the local renter of the Nayak king, had a dream that the original idol itself was at a particular place in the sea. A search party was sent to the place and the idols of Nataraja and Shanmughar were recovered.

In memory of this, the Vadamalaiappan mandapam was constructed. The temple celebrated the tri-centinary of this recovery in 1954 and the particular day is being celebrated as a festival thereafter. M. Rennel, the French author of "Description, Historical and Geographical, of India," a book published in Berlin in 1785 gives a picture of this temple which he says he got from a soldier in the service of the Dutch Company. He also refers to the Dutch invasion and the incident relating to the recovery of the idol.

The temple

Situated in an ideally beautiful surroundings, with the foaming waves of the sea washing the walls, the temple presents a picturesque scene. In a cliff of hardened sand-stone, a covern has been carved out and fitted with pillars to serve as the temple. The frontage of the temple facing the sea is popularly known as Shanmugha Vilasam. Worshippers usually flock themselves in this hall. The scenic splendours, the salubrious breeze and the sanctified presence of Shanmugha facing them give them their ecstatic realizations. The main deity faces east where there is the sea. So the important gopuram is on the west. This is a colossal structure of nine tiers, 134 feet in height, originally constructed by one Desika Moorthy, a Thambiran of Thiruvaduthurai mutt, about three hundred years ago. This Gopuram was renovated very recently. One remarkable feature in the history of this temple is that renovations to it were not made by the kings or the rich but mostly by three swamies who collected the necessary money by begging.

There are two important places near the temple which arrest the attention of the worshipper, the "Vallis Cave" and the "Nazhi Kinar". To the north of the temple is the picturesque grotto with the frontal mantapam known as "Valli's eave." It is on the border of the sea, the waves washing its sides. It is cut of red sand-stone rock. The frontal shrine faces the sea. Behind it, is a small rectangular hall which is actually cut into bowels of the rock. A small figure of Valli is kept in this hall and is often worshipped through a hole cut through the rock.

Nazhi kinar is a small well and is considered by the devotees as having been dug by Lord Subramania with his "Vel" to quench the thirst of soldiers who followed him to slay Surapadma. A bath in the sea and in Nazhi Kinar is considered to be of high religious merit.

Deities and Pujas

The presiding deity is Sri Subramania. He is in the standing posture with one head and four hands. Just behind the idol and to the left of it is a "linga". It is said that Lord Muruga is offering worship to the "linga" after slaying Surapadma. He has on one of his hands a lotus-flower and in the other a Japamalai. Pujas are performed to Sri Muruga and the linga too separately. Pothis from Malabar perform pujas to the idol in the thantric form. Pujas to Shanmughar are performed by Bhattars according to Agamic form. There are also other idols like Vinayagar, Valli, Deivayani, Mahavishnu, etc. Sandals and vibuthi are given as "prasadam" to the worshippers.

One peculiar feature in this temple is that Vibhuthi is distributed in what are known as "Pannir leaves". According to legends, after slaying Surapadma, Sri Subramania came and sat in this sacred place. The Vedas assumed the form of a 'Pannir tree' and stood by the side of the Lord spreading its branches and leaves over him. Each leaf of the tree therefore signified a Veda. Sri Subramania is the authority on "Pranava mantra"; he taught his father the meaning of the mantra. Thus the 'Vibuthi' given in "Pannir leaves" gets the spiritual sanctity of "pranava mantra" and of the "Vedas". Sri Sankaracharia Swamigal, in one of the stanzas of his Bhujangam, speaks of the high medicinal values of the "Ilai Vibuthi" and says that it would cure even the most chronic diseases.

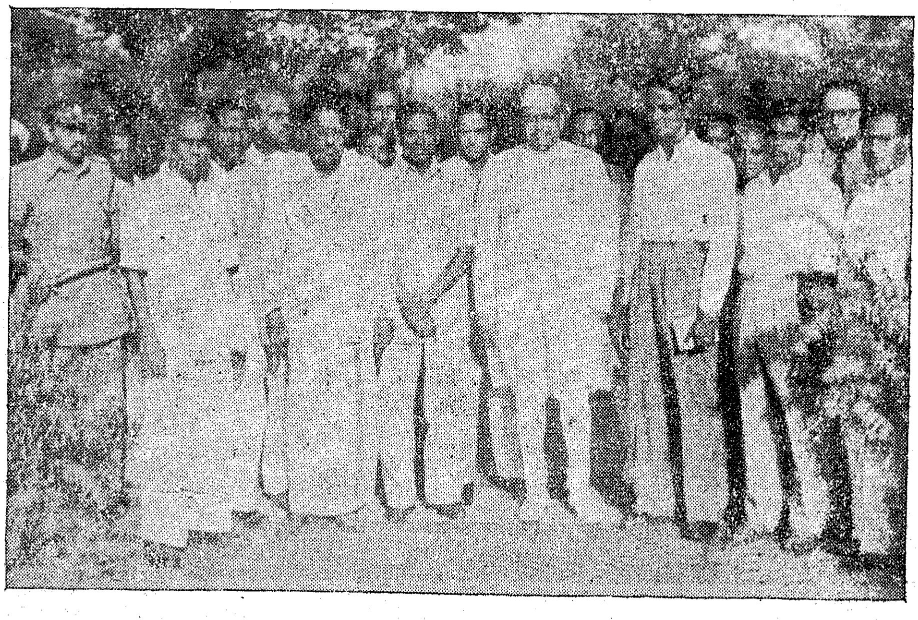
The temple has various important festivals which attract lakhs and lakhs of pilgrims from all over India. The important festivals are, however, in the Tamil months of Avani and Masi. The Vaikasi Visagam attracts the maximum crowd. The Skanda Shashti festival is also a very important one. On the sixth date of this festival, a mock fight is held and Suran is beheaded amidst a chorus of universal shouts and rejoicing of the devotees.

This is a "notified" temple administered by an Executive Officer and five trustees under the supervision of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department of the Government. It has an annual income of nearly four lakhs of rupees mostly from hundials and landed properties. The temple runs an excellent choultry and a "Rest house" with all modern amenities, charging only a nominal rent from worshippers. It runs an Orphanage with about 25 boys giving them an ideally Hindu education. Steps are being taken to start an agama Patasala very shortly.

Insurance Business Grows

The annual premium income of Indian general insurance companies was Rs. 60 lakhs in 1931, Rs. 151 lakhs in 1941 and Rs. 676 lakhs in 1953.

These companies have also extended their activities outside India and their income in this sphere rose from Rs. 99 lakhs in 1931 to Rs. 829 lakhs in 1953.



Shri Sri Prakasa, Governor of Madras, with the members of the Madras Secretariat Association. The Association celebrated the Service Week commencing from 20th June 1955.

The Youth Camp at Amaravathinagar

The Coimbatore Federation of College Social Service Leagues with Mr. G. R. Damodaran, M.P., as its President continued to be active ever since its inception. Encouraged by successful endeavours in the past, the President of the Federation ventured to organise a Youth Camp in Summer 1955. The Principals of Colleges in Coimbatore and Secretaries of the Social Service Leagues welcomed the proposal and extended their co-operation. A committee was constituted to choose the venue of the Camp and make necessary arrangements. The Amaravathy Reservoir Project was finally chosen. Though there was some diffidence at the outset how successfully it could be possible to associate the student-campers with various works in the Amaravathy Project, the enthusiastic reception of the proposal by the Superintending Engineer, Mr. Kuttiammu, and his kind encouraging words of every kind of co-operation emboldened the President to decide that the Amaravathy Project would be the best venue of the Youth Camp.

All the seven men's colleges in Coimbatore district deputed volunteers. The strength of the camp was fixed to be only 160. It was considered that it would be difficult to manage with a higher strength than this. Hence, though many volunteered they were all rejected as soon as the strength reached the maximum limit of 160.

They Start

It was on the 30th of April 1955 that all the campers assembled on the platform of Coimbatore Junction. It presented an inspiring and impressive spectacle. Next day, on the first of May, the students and staff engaged themselves busily in making arrangements for the Inaugural Ceremony of the Youth Camp. Mr. N. D. Sundaravadivelu, Director of Public Instruction, Madras, inaugurated the Youth Camp in the evening.

Six members of the staff, three from the P.S.G. College of Technology, and three from the P.S.G. Arts College, with Mr. G. Shanmugam as leader, were in charge of the Camp.

Various committees composed of staff and students were constituted—Mess Committee, Welfare Committee, Entertainment Committee, etc. These committees met periodically to discuss and decide certain matters. Every opportunity was given to encourage the student-initiative in organising and running a camp. All decisions regarding the internal planning of work for the volunteers and the camp life were taken by the council consisting of student squad leaders and staff members of the camp. Such joint sharing of responsibility among the staff and students paved the way for the smooth running of the camp. Students belonging to different colleges who had joined together for a definite endeavour moved with one another intimately and soon a very healthy and wholesome spirit of comradeship was established. It was on this bedrock of fellowship that the success of the camp was built.

The Day's Work

Campers used to be at work at 7–30 a.m. promptly. They worked for 4 hours till 11–30 a.m. in the channel and worked for 5 hours till 12–30 p.m. in the other types of works. After their hard jobs, they had a cup of tea on chill days and a cup of lemon squash on warm days. Campers enjoyed bathing under the taps and the copious flow of Amaravathy water regaled them.

Ramakulam Channel

Among these three works, the excavation of the channel was the most strenuous one. It needed manual strength, skill and stamina. As the excavation became deeper and deeper the earth became hard. It did prove a true test to the power of endurance and perserverence of the able bodied campers. The initial enthusiasm flagged as the work became tougher and not many could continue this work in the same strain after about 10–30 in the morning. The weaker ones among the campers could not withstand the strain and they used to take rest at frequent intervals. But the more many ones battled with the hard earth with pride. The campers handled the pick-axes, hammers, shovels, mammatties, pans, etc., very tactfully and in the long run learnt the art of using them. Their tender palms, unaccustomed to rough usage like this, were irritated and some had bruises and blisters. The application of vaseline and liniment gave them the needed comfort. The forcible strokes of pick-axes and the heavy pounding of hammers by the sturdy campers offered an interesting spectacle. Two among them, Messrs. V. Seshagiri Rao and N. R. Subramanian deserve mention for their hard work. Rain or sun did not scare them. Campers vied with one another in snatching a buster to disturb the unyielding soil.

The Thrill of a Job Done

The excavation of the channel progressed satisfactorily under the guidance and supervision of Mr. Ranganathan, Assistant Engineer. The excavation had to be speeded up as it had to be completed before the closure of the camp. It was possible for the camper to excavate the channel as per specifications. It was left to the Project authorities to give the finishing touches. The quantum of work turned out by each every day for 4 hours was assessed by the Project authorities in terms of wages at Re. 0–7–1 per individual. On the occasion of the Valedictory Celebrations, water was let into the canal dug by the campers. It was one of the memorable events of the camp. The thrill of water flowing through the canal dug by their own hands sent the campers to ecstacies and as the water rushed through the canal their shouts welcoming 'Amaravathy' rent the air.

Elementary School

Most of the labour for the construction of the Elementary School was contributed by the campers while the materials were supplied by the project authorities. The school has 4 rooms

24 feet by 14 feet each. The rooms were constructed with bamboo trellis over a dwarf wall 3 feet high. The roof was thatched with bamboo mats.

Kala Mandapam

Under skilled guidance, the students had also erected an open air theatre costing Rs. 4,000. Most of the labour for the construction was contributed by the students. Mural paintings done by student-artists and a staff member have decorated the theatre. The students were assisted by the skilled masons and others. But students also acquired the skill erelong. They raised the wall up to a height of 13 feet. It was nervous to see the students at work on the scaffolding at that great height. The movement of the pans of cement mortar and bricks from one hand to the other standing in rows from the ground below to the scaffolding at the top was orderly and artistic. The campers had learnt how to mix cement and sand, how to plaster the walls with cement, how to erect trusses, lintels, etc. In addition to the manual labour, the students had helped the authorities to raise a fund for the 'Kala Mandapam.' A drama "Pon Malar" was staged by the campers under the auspices of the Project Officers' Club which fetched over Rs. 2,500 for the fund. Such work of the Kala Mandapam that needed skill and experience was done by paid labourers. It was completed and the 'Youth Camp' had the glory of celebrating its Valedictory function in the same Kala Mandapam.

The Modified Programme

In the second fortnight, in order that the students may get a diversified experience in the various works connected with the construction of the Dam, the Superintending Engineer was kind enough to draw up a modified programme. The 16 squads were re-arranged into 12 squads. Each squad did a different type of work every day in rotation. They worked shoulder to shoulder along with the skilled labourers in the masonry dam and earth dam. Excavation of foundation, drilling, grouting, benching, dewatering, laying of train lines, etc., were some of the tasks which they tried to do to the best of their abilities. Workshop work and servicing of vehicles gave them some mechanical training.

Among these, the most interesting hard jobs were the laying of Truck lines and loading of Trolley trucks with stones collected at the quarry sites. At each session of 5 hours of work one squad was able to fix up not less than five lengths of truck lines. They had laid truck lines for about 630 feet and they had loaded and unloaded rubbles of 110 trucks amounting to 27½ units. Each student was able to carry only one rubble as it was very heavy. When the work turned out was assessed the wage earned was 11 annas for the 5 hours of work every day by each. The ghat road engaged a squad every day. The Health Officer of the Project was able to provide opportunities for a few volunteers in the camp to cleanse the insanitary areas. The Medical Officer engaged a few students every day in dispensing medicines.

Unflagging Enthusiasm

As days went on, some of the lean and weak volunteers showed signs of slackness. Many, to our surprise, continued to do their manual work with sustained vigour and enthusiasm. A physically handicapped camper also with a decrepit leg continued to do light tasks. Not being accustomed to hard labour of any kind and not having the physical stamina to stand the test of continuous physical labour, some of the volunteers were unable to work continuously for 4 hours in the channel and for 5 hours in the other works. Some would take rest at constant intervals. But their enthusiasm and determination to do the work never flagged. Their devotion to work had earned the appreciation of the Superintending Engineer, Assistant Engineers, Junior Engineers, Mazdoors, etc. The Chief Engineer, Mr. U. Ananda Rao, had remarked that he could not distinguish a student labourer from a mazdoor working in the Dam. Mr. Kuttiammu, Superintending Engineer, had, in his report, expressed his appreciation of the work turned out by the students and their disciplined life in the camp.

Apart from Manual labour, the campers evinced interest in social work activities. An adult school was conducted. There was an average attendance of 45 adults. Hindi classes for the project officials were held. Twelve regularly attended. Another group of students went to the workers' colony and childrens' park and played with them and kept them occupied through healthy recreation during their leisure hours in the evening.

It was arranged to distribute milk, prepared out of milk powder gifted by the Guild of Service, Coimbatore,* to about 900 poor children daily in the workers' colony. It could no tbe continued long as the milk powder was exhausted. Students who were interested in social work volunteered for this milk distribution. Every week dramas were staged and films were screened as an entertainment to the workers.

Socio-economic Survey

A group of students undertook a socio-economic survey of all the residents in the Amaravathy Project to study in detail the life and aspirations of the people belonging to different income groups in the project. It is proposed to bring out a pamphlet on the findings of the socio-economic survey.

The 'Youth Camp' has incurred an expenditure of Rs. 11,163-15-0. This expenditure includes travelling expenses, transport charges, mess charges and other incidental expenditure.

The camp came to an end on the 30th of May and the closing days of the Camp were marked by many celebrations and farewell parties. Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam, Minister for Agriculture, presided over the Valedictory Celebrations. Kala Mandapam and the Elementary School were declared open by the Minister. In his address he paid eloquent tributes to the Federation and its President for their remarkable achievement. He referred to the fears and misgivings of the Superintending Engineer when first he agreed to let in over a hundred students from colleges to take part in a construction which was already in progress. He expressed his appreciation that they had proved themselves worthy of the trust and confidence reposed in them.

The campers packed their kit and left the camp on the 30th of May casting love-lorn looks at the Amaravathinagar Project that had so hospitably treated them for over four weeks, that had shaped them into creative artists, that had given them a true insight into the Engineering skill that builds the Dam. All returned with a newly acquired sense of dignity of manual labour and healthy regard for the manual labourer. Fuller light on what the camp has meant to each camper individually is being assessed from the replies to the questionnaire prepared for the purpose and from the diaries submitted by each volunteer recording the amount of work done and his reflections.

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Fresh concentrate of Shark Liver Oil

For infants, children or adults whose digestion will not take Cod Liver Oil, Adamin is the perfect food supplement. A few drops or capsules a day give the full ration of Vitamins A and D

M.G.B. or STAYFIT SHARK LIVER OIL

Anyone used to taking Cod Liver Oil, can get exactly the same supply of Vitamins A and D from M.G.B. or Stayfit Shark Liver Oil

A full Vitamin supply for an adult costs only one anna per day

GOVERNMENT OIL FACTORY
KOZHIKODE

A Division of the Department of
Industries and Commerce, MADRAS

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